



Romanian infoRegional no.2/ 2010

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www.mdrtr.ro

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Edited by the Directorate for Communication

1. Ministry's Agenda

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18 APRIL

- At the initiative of Minister Elena Udrea, an emergency committee in tourism was set up, for the Romanian tourists who are outside the country's borders and the foreign tourists in Romania affected by the closure of the airspace of several European countries, including Romania, due to the volcanic cloud
- Minister Elena Udrea visited several tourism infrastructure investment objects, funded by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, in the resorts of Sovata and Praid
- In Miercurea Ciuc, Minister Elena Udrea signed a contract funded under the Regional Operational Programme, on the "Modernisation of mountain rescue in Harghita County"

17 APRIL

- Minister Elena Udrea attended the start of the rehabilitation works on the citadel of Rupea
- In Miercurea Ciuc, the Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, signed the contract for the project Modernisation of mountain rescue in Harghita County

16 APRIL

- The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, together with the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, and the Mayor of Buzău, Constantin Boscodeală, signed a protocol of collaboration between the institutions they represent, in view of building a residential district of about 800 housing units for young civilians and military personnel
- State Secretary Sorin Munteanu attended the informal meeting of tourism ministers from the Member States of the European Union, organised in Madrid

15 APRIL

- Minister Elena Udrea met with representatives of the local public authorities and of the Government of Vâlcea County

14 APRIL

- Meeting between Minister Elena Udrea and Avigdor Liberman, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel

12 APRIL

- Inter-ministerial working group to find solutions to problems related to the urban development of the Romanian seaside

8 APRIL

- Holidays at the Romanian seaside - events jointly organised by MRDT and tourism operators
- Minister Elena Udrea had a meeting with Andreas von Mettenheim, the Ambassador of Germany to Bucharest

7 APRIL

- [State secretary Sorin Munteanu met with Ludmila Dumitras, Director General of the Tourism Agency of the Republic of Moldova](#)
- [The Tourism Consultative Council met at the MRDT headquarters](#)

30 MARCH

- [Minister Elena Udrea signed a Protocol of collaboration for construction of housing in Braşov](#)
- [Minister Elena Udrea attended the inauguration of social housing units built in Buşteni, under a programme run by the MRDT](#)
- [The Council for the coordination of the project on Romania`s Tourism Brand gathered at the MRDT headquarters, for the second working meeting](#)

29 MARCH

- [Barna TÁNCZOS, State Secretary at the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, had a meeting with Božidar Djelić, Vice Prime Minister Deputy for European Integration and Minister for Science and Technology Development of Serbia](#)
- [Răzvan Murgeanu, State Secretary at the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, attended in Budapest the meeting of the ministers responsible for regional development from the Member States of the Visegrád Group + Romania and Bulgaria \(V4+2\).](#)

25 MARCH

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended the official opening of Romania`s Tourism Fair 2010 - Spring Edition, at the Romexpo exhibition centre](#)
- [Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, attended the opening of the programme *Easter in Bucovina*, Suceava County](#)
- [The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, as managing authority for the Romania - Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, held the fourth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee \(JMC\) in Turnu Măgurele](#)

24 MARCH

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended the FIJET-Romania Awards Gala](#)

19 MARCH

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended the inauguration ceremony of the ferryboat line Turnu Măgurele - Nikopol](#)
- [MRDT recommends Romanian spas. "Tourist in Romania" campaign continues with OPTBR \(National Organization of Spas\) programme "Let`s go to a spa!"](#)

18 MARCH

- [The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, signed the financing contract for the rehabilitation, in Suceava](#)
- [Minister Elena Udrea signed 2 financing contracts under the Regional Operational Programme, in Vaslui](#)
- [Minister Elena Udrea, signed in Suceava the financing contract for the rehabilitation, modernisation and equipping of the integrated ambulatory care unit of the Siret City Hospital](#)
- [State Secretary Sorin Munteanu attended the official opening of the "HOLIDAY MARKET" International Tourism Fair](#)

17 MARCH, Iaşi

- [Minister Elena Udrea signed two contracts financed under the Regional Operational Programme, in Iaşi](#)

16 MARCH

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended this year`s first meeting of the Tourism Consultative Council](#)
- [Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, met with Niki Lauda, the majority shareholder of the "Fly Niki" airlines](#)

12 MARCH

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended the debate on "Heritage protection and urban development", organised by the Group for Social Dialogue and the 22 magazine](#)

11 MARCH, Braşov

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended General Assembly of Association of Romanian Towns](#)

10-14 MARCH, Berlin

- [Romania participated in Berlin International Tourism Bourse](#)

10 MARCH

- [A cooperation protocol was signed between the "Litoral - Delta Dunării" association and the "Air Berlin " airlines](#)

9 MARCH, Arad

- [Minister Elena Udrea signed a contract for improvement of system of intervention in emergency situations in West Region](#)

7 MARCH, Bucharest

- [MRDT recommends programme "A week in the mountains 2010"](#)

5 MARCH, Bucharest

- [Minister Elena Udrea met François Rantrua, country manager of the World Bank Office in Romania](#)

4 MARCH, Bucharest

- [Minister Elena Udrea attended conference "Mediafax Talks about Construction"](#)

26 FEBRUARY, Sofia

- [Minister Elena Udrea signed the Memorandum of Understanding on implementation of "Romania-Bulgaria Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013"](#)

23 FEBRUARY, Brăila

- [Danube area development project - DATOURWAY launched at national level](#)

2. Regional Development Romanian infoRegional 2/2010

Siret City Hospital will be rehabilitated and modernised under the Regional Operational Programme!



Inițiativă locală. Dezvoltare regională.

The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, signed the financing contract for the rehabilitation, modernisation and equipping of the integrated ambulatory care unit of the Siret City Hospital. The total project value is 772,451.63 euros, of which 594,941.10 euros non-reimbursable European financing.

At the end of the 24 months of implementation, the population of the area will benefit from a rehabilitated and modernly equipped medical unit with a reception capacity increased by 41% for the internal medicine ambulatory unit and 175% for the recovery-physiotherapy ambulatory unit. The building's energy efficiency will also increase by 300%.

Minister Elena Udrea also met with the local public authorities who pointed out the need to build a multipurpose hall in Suceava. The Minister expressed her readiness to finance this project from the MRDT budget.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrt.ro

A more efficient system of intervention in emergency situations in the West Development Region!

The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, signed the contract for purchasing specific equipment to improve the capacity and the quality of the system of interventions in emergency situations and to grant emergency medical assistance and qualified first aid in Region 5 West.



The project, funded under Regio - the Regional Operational Programme 2007 - 2013, initiated by the Inter-Community development association for the management of emergency situations, is located in the West Development Region (counties of Timiș, Caraș Severin, Hunedoara and Arad) and will be implemented on a period of 18 months.

The goals of the project are to improve response capacity by reducing the time to provide qualified first aid and for interventions in emergency situations, with 30% in rural areas and 40% in urban areas, the purchase of specific equipment and the increase the degree of safety for the population.

Total project value is 11,620,494 euros, of which 8,144,409 euros non-reimbursable European financing.

Under this project several types of equipment will be purchased: 14 special vehicles for working with water and foam, 2 special vehicles for intervention in collective accidents and for urban rescue, 4 special vehicles for NBCR (nuclear, biological, chemical, radiological) research, 4 special vehicles for heavy extrication, 11 special complex vehicles for intervention, extrication and medical assistance, 4 first aid ambulances, 5 resuscitation ambulances, equipment for the command and control centre.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrt.ro

Development of Iași supported under MRDT Programmes

The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, signed two contracts financed under the Regional Operational Programme, in the area of tourism and school infrastructure, as well as a protocol on starting a partnership for Bahlui.

1. The “**Ciric Leisure Area**” project will run over 29 months and aims at valorising the tourism potential of the North-East Development Region, in view of creating new jobs and supporting the sustainable and balanced economic growth of the region. Thus, the Ciric leisure area will be created, which will increase the number of visitors to 241,686 for the first five operational years.



Exterior arrangements will be made, including: road ways, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, fences, external networks, urban furniture, waste collection platforms; beaches and swimming pools with changing rooms, showers, toilets, administrative storage and first aid space, watch tower; children`s playgrounds, sports fields - mini golf, paintball, football, tennis, handball, basketball, table tennis, jetties and pontoons, chair lift.

The total value of the project is 11,058,878.45 euros, of which 4,187,236.16 euros non-reimbursable European funding.

2. The project on the “**Rehabilitation, upgrading and equipping of special schools in Iași County**” will be implemented for 21 months and aims at improving the quality of infrastructure necessary for the access to education of people with disabilities in Iași County, by strengthening, modernising, expanding and equipping of five educational institutions.

The total value of the project is 7,792,497.69 euros, of which 5,301,213.96 euros non-reimbursable European funding.

3. The protocol on the initiation of a partnership for Bahlui between the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Iași County Council implies the arrangement of the Bahlui riverbed, in the municipality of Iași. The aim of this investment project is the development of the tourism leisure infrastructure in the urban area of Bahlui river by: making pedestrian and/or bicycle paths, banks and other facilities for leisure, the public lighting of the area, with equipment based on energy from renewable sources, transversal constructions over the river bed, with commercial purpose (souvenir shops, cafés, terraces, restaurants, etc.), artesian wells and other attraction elements, mobile weirs and arrangements for ensuring the navigability of the light leisure or sports boats in the area between Podul de Piatră (Stone Bridge) and the Tudor Vladimirescu bridge. The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism is interested in developing tourism and leisure infrastructure in areas with high potential, Iași being one of the regional centres of national interest in this respect.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrd.ro

Vaslui County will have a modern educational infrastructure!



The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, signed two contracts financed under the Regional Operational Programme, aimed at the rehabilitation, modernisation, expansion and planning of the pre-university educational infrastructure in Vaslui County.

1. The project “**Consolidation and Rehabilitation School no. 3, classes I - VIII, Vaslui Municipality**” will run over 24 months and will improve the educational infrastructure, through works of rehabilitation, modernisation, expansion and planning of the building where School no. 3

is carrying out its activities.

The total project value is 1,181,026.74 euros, of which 845,027.16 euros non-reimbursable European financing.

2. The project “**Consolidation and expansion - Brodoc School**” will be implemented for 13 months and aims at improving the educational infrastructure through the intervention works consisting of rehabilitation, modernisation, expansion and planning of the building where the Brodoc School is carrying out its activities.

The total project value is 772,880.15 euros, of which 535,920.06 euros non-reimbursable European financing.

Both projects are submitted under Priority Axis 3 of the Regional Operational Programme - Improving social infrastructure, Key area of intervention 3.4 - Rehabilitation, modernisation, development and equipping of pre-university and university educational infrastructure, and the continuous vocational training infrastructure.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrt.ro

Monasteries Dragomirna, Moldovița and Sucevița renovated under the Regional Operational Programme

The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, attended the opening of the programme *Easter in Bucovina*, organised by the Suceava County Council and visited the Easter Fair in the central market of Suceava Municipality. On the occasion of this visit, Minister Elena Udrea signed three contracts financed under the Regional Operational Programme, aimed at the restoration, preservation and modernisation of related infrastructure of the Dragomirna, Moldovița and Sucevița monasteries, in northern Moldova.

The three projects, worth over 9 million euros, provide state restoration and modernisation works for the monasteries part of Romania`s cultural heritage. At the end of the 24 implementation months, it is expected a significant increase in the number of tourists arrived to spend their holidays in the region, who will enjoy cultural tourism services at European standards.



Moldovița Monastery

The project to restore and modernise the **Dragomirna** monastery provides arrangement and rehabilitation works of the buildings that make up the whole enclosure, the restoration and conservation of the iconostasis and the artistic components of the church, the restoration of the access floor, the wall of the monastery, the achievement of the architectural lighting of the buildings, the installation of a central heating unit, the achievement of a tourism information point in the inner courtyard of the monastery, the set up of a digital audio-guide system, as well as the fixing of the monastery`s information system.

The project carried out at the **Moldovița** monastery will ensure the restoration of exterior and interior painting, the modernisation of the heating system, the acquisition and installation of a biomass-fuelled

heating unit, the set up of the monastery`s information system and of a digital audio-guide system, the establishment of a info-kiosk, as well as the rearrangement of the museum and of the exhibition of heritage objects.

As regards the **Sucevița** monastery, the project will allow the modernisation of the access roads and alleys inside the monastery, the installation of a central heating unit and the modernisation of the

heating system, the achievement of the architectural lighting of the buildings, the restoration and conservation of the interior and exterior painting and of the museum components, the equipping of the icon conservation laboratory, the set up of the information system and the installation of a video surveillance and anti-burglary system, the set up of a digital audio-guide system and the achievement of a tourism information point in the inner courtyard of the monastery.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrt.ro

3. International Territorial Cooperation Romanian infoRegional 2/2010



Renewable energy- energy of the future!

The project "Energy efficiency and renewable energy - Support policies for energy at local level" (acronym: ENER-SUPPLY) was approved within the **South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme** (<http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/>) for which the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism is National Authority.

The project, coordinated by the Municipality of Potenza (Italy), is carried out over a period of three years, by a partnership of 14 organisations from Europe, which includes renowned institutions such as: the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources (CRES) - Greece, the Black Sea Regional Energy Centre (BSREC) - Bulgaria, the University of Bratislava (EUKÉ) - Slovakia, the University of Ancona (UNIVPM) - Italy, the Centre for Studies and Experimental Research in Geotechnologies (CersGEO) - Italy, the Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EHIP) - Croatia etc. The Romanian partner in the ENER-SUPPLY project is the Centre for Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy in Romania - ENERO (www.enero.ro), a non-profit organisation active in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The main objectives of the ENER-SUPPLY project are to raise the level of knowledge and information of the key stakeholders in the fields of RES and EE, to strengthen the capacity of the local institutions in planning and implementing the plans in the fields of RES and EE and to inform the general public and the key stakeholders (at local and central level) on the opportunities to use the RES and to improve the EE. Project activities include transfer of technical and legislative knowledge from the experienced EU Member partners to the local authorities of the SEE countries participating in the project, experimentation of good practices in the management of the energy resources (by public and private organizations) and quantification and presentation by the help of maps of the SRE potential at the level of the participating territories, so that the most interesting opportunities for RES projects and/or EE investments can be identified. The investment opportunities will be detailed in feasibility studies that will contain technical and economic specifications, environmental impact assessments, analyses of legislative coercions, financial opportunities.

Throughout the whole project, cooperation will be developed not only with local authorities, but also with other local factors interested in the approached theme, especially with potential investors in the RES and EE fields.

The first phase of the project consisted in identifying areas of interest in the implementation of actions, in the case of Romania - the counties of Dâmbovită and Ialomița. In their case, activities will focus specifically on the theme of using geothermal, wind, biomass and micro-hydro plants` energy.

The SEE Programme is financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund and co-financed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism. The programme`s overall aim is to improve the process of territorial, economic and social integration, in South East Europe and contribute to the cohesion, stability and competitiveness of this region, by developing transnational partnership and joint actions on issues of strategic importance.

Additional information about the project can be obtained on tel / fax - 021 665 26 05, Contact - Nicoleta Ion

4. PHARE Programmes & Projects

Romanian infoRegional 2/2010

Rehabilitation of Vâjiştea river dams finalized

The project "Rehabilitation of the dams located on the Vâjiştea creek in the localities of Vităneşti, Răzmireşti, Mârzăneşti, Teleorman County", financed under the [Romania - Bulgaria Phare CBC 2006 programme was finalised](#).

The dams rehabilitated under the project, and for which the final acceptance was carried out, are: Surlita, Schitu, Grosu III, Grosu IV, Grosu VI and Grosu VII. A series of rehabilitation works were carried out for each dam of the six arrangements, such as restoring the earthen dam, covering the upstream wall with a layer of reinforced concrete, restoring the crowning of the earth dam and the unloading access platform, etc. Works have also been carried out on the hydromechanical equipment, on the achievement of riverbank protection in the area of the fishing pond, but also on restoring the access road in this area.

The Teleorman County Council carried out the abovementioned project from the need to take urgent measures to achieve a public protection infrastructure, having the role to provide authorities and citizens safety against flooding. On 23 February, the six dams were accepted in the presence of both the Romanian and the Bulgarian authorities.

[Additional information about the project can be obtained from Neaţu Gabriel - PROJECT MANAGER, phone 0247311201, fax 024731478.](#)

Finalisation of project Development of selective waste collection in Stîlpu - Costeşti area, premise of rehabilitation and environmental protection



The Mayoralty of the commune of Stîlpu, in partnership with the Mayoralty of the commune of Costeşti, announced the closure of the project "Development of selective waste collection in Stîlpu - Costeşti area, premise of rehabilitation and environmental protection", financed by the European Union under the Phare 2006 Programme - Economic and Social Cohesion - Investment scheme to support public sector initiatives in priority environmental sectors.

The project`s goal was to develop and implement at local level the waste management projects, which will make environmental rehabilitation and protection possible.

Expected results:

- environmental rehabilitation and protection;
 - Improvement of waste collection and transport in areas where there was no efficient public sewage system;
 - Improvement of the capacity of local public authorities to contribute to environmental protection;
 - increase of the quality of life;
 - protection of the health of population;
 - waste recovery and return of certain quantities of raw material to the economic circuit;
 - return of areas of land to agricultural use;
 - increase the attractiveness of the localities that make up the Stîlpu - Costeşti area for potential investors;
- The project`s implementation duration was 15 October 2008 - 15 March 2010, and the total cost of the project amounted to 401,566.95 euros, of which 361,410.00 euros financing from the European Union, and 40.156.95 euros, own contribution of the beneficiaries.

[Additional information can be obtained from Mr Cătălin Ene at the Stîlpu Village Hall, phone no. 0238/453599, fax 0238/453598 e-mail: catalinene123@yahoo.com.](#)

Ferryboat line between Turnu Măgurele and Nikopol

On **19 March 2010**, the Minister of Regional Development and Tourism Elena Udrea, together with the Romanian Prime Minister Emil Boc and the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, attended the inauguration ceremony of the ferryboat line Turnu Măgurele - Nikopol.



The ferryboat line was achieved by implementing a Romanian-Bulgarian "mirror" project the financed from EU funds under the PHARE CBC 2002. The project cost for the Romanian side was 4.5 million euros, of which 3.30 million euros from Phare funds and 1.20 million co-financing from the beneficiary.

The main works were aimed at arranging the automotive platform and ramp, at hydro-technical works and at raising the relating buildings. The "Europe" ferryboat, which will cross the Danube, can carry 260 passengers, 34 cars and maximum 9 long vehicles. The ship can be anchored in any Danubian port that has specific port facilities, with an autonomy of about 21 days or 350 kilometres. The vehicles

to be loaded for crossing the border on the Romanian bank to the Bulgarian one benefits from automotive loading ramps that provide full security on both embarking and disembarking.

The project aims at promoting good neighbourliness and stability in the border area by building a new access road between the two countries.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism: www.mdrtr.ro

5. Territorial Development Romanian infoRegional 2/2010

Romanian-French cooperation in the field of urban planning law



On **25 March 2010**, the Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, attended the official opening of the seminar "**European construction and the evolution of urban planning law**" - *a comparative study Romania-France*. The event was organised by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism in collaboration with the University of Bucharest - Faculty of Law - Centre of the general theory of law and new rights, the French-Romanian Juridical College of European Studies and the French-Romanian Association of Jurists, during the period 25 -26 March 2010.

Entered in the French-Romanian strategic partnership, the seminar represents an important step in the process of updating the Romanian legislation on spatial and urban planning, by adapting it according to the practices and regulations of the other EU Member States and to the European directives.

The first day of the seminar included 3 sessions with the themes: 1) The right to information and public participation in urban planning activities, 2) Access to the judge in the area of urban planning and 3) Contentious matters in the area of urban planning in France and Romania.

The second day included session 4, "What restrictions on the ownership rights are justified by the sustainable urban development?", followed by a roundtable on "What are the prospects for the evolution of the Romanian urban planning law? Training Romanian



lawyers specialised in urban planning law."

The event took place with support from the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea (MEEDDM), of the Research Group for the Institutions and the Law of Spatial and Urban Planning and Habitat - GRIDAUH, of the Romanian Urban Planners Register - RUR and the Francophone University Agency.

Further information on this subject can be found by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrdt.ro

6. Public works & Housing Romanian infoRegional 2/2010

61 social housing units built in Buşteni under a programme run by the MRDT

The Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, together with the Mayor of Buşteni, Emanuel Savin, attended the inauguration of a number of 61 social housing units (13 apartments and 48 studios) built under a programme run by the MRDT.



The construction costs of the four housing blocks amounted to 8,188,000 lei, of which 2,098,000 lei from the local budget and 6,090,000 from the state budget, through the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.

On this occasion, Minister Elena Udrea visited the housing units inaugurated in Buşteni, handed the keys to the tenants, and assured those present she would continue to carry out the programmes of building social housing started by the ministry she is heading and, at the same time, will speed up the pace of building housing for young people.

Please find more information on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism: www.mdrdt.ro

Housing units for young military and civilians to be built in Braşov

The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, through the National Housing Agency, will build in Braşov housing for the young on land lots from decommissioned military units, 30% of these homes to be distributed to the personnel of the Ministry of National Defence (MND).



On 30 March, the Minister of Regional Development and Tourism, Elena Udrea, together with the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, and the Mayor of Braşov, George Scripcaru, signed a *Protocol of collaboration* between the institutions they represent, in view of building a residential district of about 400 homes for young military and civilians.

The necessary land, under public state ownership, will be transferred from the administration of the Defence Ministry to the administration of the Local Council of Braşov Municipality.

Minister Elena Udrea said that the Braşov project is the first of its kind and can be taken as an example in other localities, too, as the partnership between the MRDT, the MND and the local public authorities solves a part of the problems related to the lack of land for building housing for the young.

In his turn, Minister Gabriel Oprea announced that such collaboration would be extended in several localities in the country. The two ministers also agreed on the importance of the transfer of objects of tourism interest from the Ministry of National Defence to the local administration, in view of introducing them into the tourism circuit.

Please find more information on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism: www.mdrdt.ro

MRDT participated in Hotel Investment Forum - Berlin, Germany

8 -11 March 2010

Organisers: Questex Media and Bench Events.

Participants

- central public authorities (Colombia and Brazil, the Philippines announcing participation for 2011);
- local public authorities (Sochi city presented investment projects for the carrying out of the 2014 Winter Olympics);
- hotel industry through international chains,
- specialised consultants, hotel schools,
- magazines in the hotel field from the general to the specialised ones;
- consulting companies in investment, legal matters (buying land, property), international financial market analysis, in general, or at the level of European tourist destinations;
- banks with investment divisions, in general or in the hotel field, tourism; international financial institutions (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

Please find more information on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism:
www.mdrt.ro

Romania participated in the Real Estate Development Exhibition, Cannes, France

16-19 March 2010

Organiser: Reed MIDEM

The number of exhibitors exceeded 6,000 people.

Romania was present through the participation of the following institutions:

- Dâmbovița County Council, which provided information on the project for developing ski opportunities in the Padina Peștera area - Bucegi Mountains;
- Vrancea County Council, which presented a portfolio of various projects focusing on skiing and cultural tourism
- Eforie Local Council, which presented projects for developing a tourism port in Eforie and provided additional information about the tourism leisure opportunities in the resort.

At the event there were also presented development projects on the Săcele area, Brașov County.

Please find more information on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism:
www.mdrt.ro

MRDT participated in the Final conference on Iron Curtain Trail (ICT)

16 March 2010, in Sofia, Bulgaria.



The conference was organized for the South-East Europe area, by the European Commission, Enterprise and Industry Directorate, Tourism Unit, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism of Bulgaria.

The conference was attended by representatives of central and local public authorities, and of the tourism organisations in the countries of the South-East Europe area, as well as representatives of several tourism organisations from other European regions.

Within this event, the Romanian Cyclists' Federation gave a presentation on mountain biking and the cycling network in Romania.

Brief description of the project

The ICT crosses Europe, from the Barents Sea in the North to the Bosphorus Strait in the South, Romania

being included with its counties of Timiș, Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți, in the area of the border with Serbia. Developing a route for cyclo-tourism along this trail is supported by the European Parliament and is included in the programmes of the European Commission and of the European Cyclists' Federation through the European network of routes for cyclo-tourism EuroVelo.

The ICT is a route with historical significance, a symbol for soft mobility and for the reunification of Europe, an opportunity to integrate Romania's tourism offer from the area crossed by the route and from the neighbouring areas, within a European tourism offer.

The project can be integrated in other programmes at European level, which are currently being carried out, with regard to the tourism development of the Danubian area.

For further information in this respect, please check the following websites:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/iron-curtain-trail/index_en.htm
<http://www.ironcurtaintrail.eu/en/>

MDRT recommends Romanian spas!

"Tourist in Romania" campaign continues with OPTBR programme "Let`s go to a spa!"

The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism announces the launching of a new programme of special offers, called "Let`s go to a spa!" by the Employers` Organisation of Spa Tourism in Romania (OPTBR).



The programme runs during the months of July and August 2010, in the spa establishments members of the OPTBR, and provides access to health holidays to a varied range of customers, at attractive tariffs.

The novelty of this programme is that it grants free accommodation, in the same room with the parents, of children up to 12 years, given that the programme runs during the school holidays. Thus, the families with children are encouraged to spend their holidays for restoring health in Romanian spas.

The "Let`s go to a spa!" programme includes 6-day packages of full-board accommodation, a free consultation on arrival and at least 5 days of treatment (two procedures per day). The tariff for one bed in a double room varies from 575 lei in 2-star hotels and 690 lei in 3-star hotels, and includes the commission for the reselling agency.

The new programme complements those already established by the OPTBR, "A recovery week in spas" and the "Spa Decade", for which validity was extended until June 30.

For more information about each programme, visit the OPTBR website www.spas.ro.

Legislative changes on tourism patent!



On **24 March, 2010** meeting, the Government approved the proposal of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, an emergency ordinance providing a series of amendments to **Government Ordinance 58/1998** on the organisation and unfolding of tourism activity in Romania. The amendments approved today are imposed by the transposition into national law of some stipulations in the European legislation concerning services in the internal market and the provision of tourism services.

The main change resulting from the normative act adopted by the Government today is that holding a tourism patent is not mandatory travel for the person who provides the operative management of a travel agency or of a tourist reception structure.

Thus, to fill this function, a person not holding a tourism patent must have either a graduation certificate of a management training course in the field (a course organised by an authorised training provider, under the law) or a bachelor / master / doctoral diploma on graduating university/post-university courses in tourism.

The Emergency Ordinance also eliminates the obligation to obtain the endorsement of the National Sport Authority to homologate for approval ski tracks for leisure, as well as mountain tourism tracks. This activity will be carried out by the MRDT and the county councils on whose territory the respective tracks are located.

Further information can be obtained by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrdt.ro, Tourism, Legislation

MRDT promoted Romania at "Holiday Market"

"HOLIDAY MARKET" International Tourism Fair

Organiser: National Association of Travel Agencies of Romania (ANAT)

Period **18-21 March 2010, at the Parliament Palace.**

Romania was present at this exhibition with a stand arranged by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism on an area of 63 sqm, located in the C4 gallery. Besides the ministry, professional, employers and promotion associations in tourism participated in the Romanian stand: OPTBR (National Association of Spas), ANTREC (the National Association for Rural, Ecological and Cultural Tourism), The Romanian Tourism Employers` Union (FPTR), ANAT.



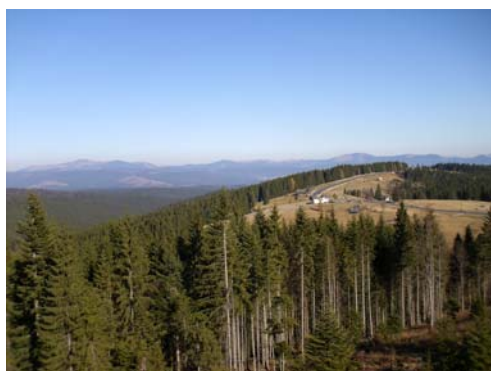
Vidraru Dam

Through its presence at the fair, under the "Tourist in Romania" campaign, the ministry promoted the most important destinations and types of tourism in Romania, but also the special offers programmes agreed by the employers` and professional tourism association, which implied reductions of tariffs for travel packages.

The **"HOLIDAY MARKET"** International Tourism Fair was addressed to both specialists and the general public.

For further details, please access the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrdt.ro

Stage of building Romania`s Tourism Brand



The Council for the coordination of the project on Romania`s Tourism Brand gathered on March 30 at the MRDT headquarters, for the second working meeting with the representatives of the association THR-TNS and the project managers from the ministry.

The project team, represented at this meeting by Eulogio Bordas, leader of the association THR-TNS, finalised one of the most important stages of the project, namely the achievement of all necessary studies to determine the current image of our country as a tourism destination.



The survey had two components - a qualitative one and a quantitative one - and was conducted in Romania and in the eight countries established as core markets by the Master plan for national tourism development (Austria, Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain/Ireland, Russia, Hungary and USA). The eight studied markets represent almost 40% of the value of the global foreign tourism market, namely a volume of 240 billion euros (at the level of 2008), which corresponds to a number of 249 million foreign travels.

In this context, Eulogio Bordas explained that Romania, unlike many other countries, can develop a strong tourism brand, but this requires a constant communication, for a period of minimum 5 years, with well-defined target publics towards which the promotion efforts will focus. In the Spanish consultant`s opinion, consumers must assimilate a new set of images and perceptions about Romania, which is not possible in the short term.



Huniarzilor Castle, Hunedoara

Another conclusion of the survey refers to the fact that, after visiting Romania, foreign tourists improve their opinion about our country. This means that reality is better than perception and, therefore, that Romania should carry out external communication campaigns in order to improve the perceptions of potential tourists about our country. The THR-TNS association leader even talked about a lack of information of the foreign markets on the tourism product "Romania."

Also, as a result of the joint survey, 6 of Romania`s most competitive tourism products were selected within the Brand Council: cultural tours, tourism in the nature, rural tourism, city breaks, active and adventure tourism, spa and fitness tourism.

The above-mentioned products, in various proportions, will stand at the basis of the brand-building and could be communication vectors to position Romania on the international tourism market.

Based on the results obtained so far, during the next two months, the association THR-TNS will cover the stages of the brand`s strategic positioning: conceptualisation, creation and design of visual identity, achievement of the brand manual and set up of the guidelines of the communication strategy.

Further information can be obtained by accessing the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, www.mdrt.ro

Holidays at the Romanian seaside - events jointly organised by MRDT and tourism operators

The events conducted during the May Day and out-of-season holiday periods at the Romanian seaside, as well as their promotion, will be done in partnership by the private seaside tourism operators and the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.

This was the main conclusion of the Tourism Consultative Council (CCT), which met on 8 April, 2010, to determine measures to be jointly undertaken in the forthcoming period for the development of Romanian tourism. The decision was unanimously adopted by vote by the CCT members and complements other measures set out within the meeting.



The Casino, in Constanța

"We established, by vote of the Tourism Consultative Council, to carry out a partnership between the MRDT and the tourism operators to organise events on the Romanian seaside for the May Day holiday and the out-of-season period (May 1-June 15). We laid stress on the seaside because season opening is getting near and the seaside has 40% of Romania`s accommodation capacity. The ministry will be involved in promoting the seaside during the summer season, as well", said Minister Elena Udrea at this meeting.

In parallel, partnerships with private carriers are considered, for road transport, and with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, for rail transport, which will particularly help young people who want to spend the 1 May Day holiday at the seaside.

Hoteliers and travel agencies came to meet the tourists` needs and the ministry`s efforts, promoting

BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES OF WALLONIA”.

Through the association, the member villages will promote the local-rural heritage, local products, folk traditions and customs specific to the member villages - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN ROMANIA.

The objectives of the association are to valorise and promote the values and beauties of the Romanian villages, to contribute to their renovation and preservation, to touristically promote the member villages through projects and investments for the development of the member villages by launching pilot projects (eg rural workshops, mobile town hall) and by diversifying economic activities, etc.

Member of the association may be any commune (village) in the Centre Region and in Romania that meets the following quality criteria:

- to have a rural character
- to have at least one tourism object, one cultural attraction, eg - classified monuments, museum, NATURA 2000 site, etc.
- a valuable urban and architectural heritage, assessed by quality criteria
- decision of the Local Council

The association - the most beautiful villages in Romania asks for the support of all those interested in carrying out its activities on:

- improving conditions for the young in villages
- stimulating those living in cities to visit the traditional Romanian villages
- developing traditional villages - models of rural development in Romania
- improving vocational training in the rural areas
- equal opportunities in education, equal opportunities at work
- consulting in various areas of public administration
- creation of local brands for each locality
- creation of an integrated marketing and promotion plan for villages
- creation of a website, of brochures
- affiliation to the international organisation - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN THE WORLD
- attracting investors to the rural areas
- organising events specific to each village - Weekend in the traditional village, circuits, internships and excursions to traditional villages.

The main benefits for the member villages:

- becoming part of the national network - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN ROMANIA
- creation of a platform for tourism promotion: website, brochures, events, national and international promotion
- arrangement of communal parking places at the entrances to the villages
- achievement of projects and investments in arranging public places
- attracting funds for large infrastructure projects: roads, water supply, natural gas, etc.
- launching pilot projects for economic diversification - eg: Rural workshop - to create jobs in the rural areas
- advice in the public administration
- advice and fundraising for the preservation and renovation of the locality's heritage
- arrangement of areas for camping, recreation, sports and leisure
- achievement of micro-circuits (eg THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN TRANSYLVANIA, MARAMUREȘ, BUKOVINA etc.) and their promotion in cities, by stimulating those living in cities to spend their weekends in the countryside.

The association - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES (COMMUNES) IN ROMANIA is an open project. For more information, or to become a member, please contact the association's representative, Mr. Marghiol Nicolae Contact data: 20, Mihail Kogălniceanu St., bl 1k, SC. D, apt. 9, Brașov, Romania, Phone: 0749 2230 53 0724 69 55 56 Mail: marghiol.nicolae @ gmail.com. The website of the association is: <http://cele-mai-frumoase-sate-romania.webs.com/>

Final conference of project "ERIK ACTION - Upgrading the Innovation Capacity of Existing Enterprises"

The South East Regional Development Agency is implementing in a consortium made up of 11 partners from 10 European Union Member States, the project "ERIK ACTION - Upgrading the innovation capacity of Existing Enterprises" funded under the European Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, priority "Innovation and Knowledge Economy."

The overall objective is to increase the effectiveness of regional development policies in the field of innovation and knowledge economy and, especially, to increase the innovation capacity of existing enterprises.

The final conference of the ERIK ACTION project will be organised on 11 May 2010 in Florence, Tuscany Region, Italy. On this occasion, the good practices and experiences gained by the partners during the project will be presented and parallel sessions will be organised on the theme of upgrading the innovation capacity through:

- responsibility and sustainable solutions for innovation policies
- policies to support the innovation activities of the young researchers
- cooperation between companies, universities and local public administration

The South East Regional Development Agency will sign the Regional Action Plan for the transfer of two good practices, namely: the "Common platform to foster cooperation", a successful example from the Region of Småland in Sweden in terms of creating a regional partnership with active participation of regional authorities, companies and academia in solving problems of common interest, and also the "Organisation of events to promote technology transfer between universities and companies", the good practice transferred to the Andalusia Region in Spain, in order to stimulate innovation through technological cooperation, exploitation of research results and by facilitating collaboration between research groups and companies.

For further information you can access the websites www.adrse.ro or www.eriknetwork.net, contact person: Adriana Vaida, ERIK ACTION project manager, e-mail address: adriana.vaida@adrse.ro.

9. Discover Romania Romanian infoRegional 2/2010

Peleş Castle, the realm of fairy tales



Considered one of the most impressive castles in Europe and certainly the most beautiful in Romania, the Peleş Castle majestically guards the cool coniferous forests and the murmur of the springs in the middle of the Carpathians.

One can relatively easily reach here from any area of the country, and there are only 122 km between Bucharest and Sinaia, which can be made either the car or by train.

The castle, intended for royal summer residence, was built between 1873

Peleş Castle, Sinaia

and 1883, on the place called Pietrele Arse (burnt stones), a place that King Carol I of Romania (1866-1914) himself chose for its beauty. The works continued until 1914, the year of the king's death.

King Carol of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (b.1839 - d.1914) was of German origin and was the first king of Romania.

According to his wish, the castle architecture was achieved mainly in the German neo-Renaissance (although it has influences of other styles) and was the work of architects Wilhelm von Doderer (Austrian),

Johannes Schultz (Germany) and Karel Liman (Czech). Several gold coins bearing the image of King were buried in the foundation of the castle, as a sign of good omen. Between 1889 and 1903 the Peleş was built, a smaller replica of the Peleş Castle. In fact, in time, other buildings and annexes were built in the surrounding of the castle, such as the Foişor (Watchtower), Casa de Vânătoare (the Hunting House), the Economat, the Stables etc.

From the very beginning, Peleş Castle was designed with modern equipment: it was the first electrified castle in Europe, with its own power plant, central heating, inside elevator and even running water.

Over time, great personalities of the country and from abroad were invited to step its threshold, among them being musicians, painters, writers, poets, but also guests of royal blood.

There are around 170 rooms and 30 bathrooms inside the castle, although only a small fraction of them are for the tourism circuit. Invaluable collections can be admired here: paintings, sculptures, carpets, weapons, items of precious metal, porcelain, stained-glass windows of a peculiar age and beauty, etc.

The public may admire wonderful rooms, such as the Moorish Hall, the Arms Hall, the Florentine Salon, the Turkish Salon, the Royal bedroom, the Concert hall, the Theatre room, the Honour hall (which has a mobile glass ceiling, so the guests could admire the sky on summer nights), the King's Library, which has a secret door etc.

As 200 years have passed from the birth of composer Fryderyk Chopin, this year, Peleş Castle, in cooperation with the Polish Institute in Bucharest, hosts the Chopin Year project, within which two piano concerts were set. The first was held on 6 March, the second will take place in June.

Those interested in participating in this event may contact the representatives of the Peleş National Museum, by accessing the website www.peles.ro, where they can also find information on the visiting hours and on the ticket prices.

Scărişoara - the cave with a heart of ice



Specialised maps record over 12,000 caves in Romania. Scărişoara cave or the Scărişoara Glacier is among them. Situated near the village of Gârda de Jos, Alba County in the Apuseni Mountains, it is the oldest and largest ice cave in Romania.

At an altitude of 1165 m and over 3500 years old, the cave hosts the largest underground glacier in the country and the second largest glacier in Europa.

The exact date when the cave was first discovered is unknown. The earliest mention of the cave is made by A. Szirtfi in 1847. K.F. Peters and A. Schmidl give the first scientific information in 1861, and 1863 respectively.

The main feature of the cave is given by the permanent presence of ice, hence the name "The Scărişoara Glacier".

The topography of the cave is easy. Its length is 720 m, of which 250 m visitable, and the depth is 105 m. The ice block has a volume of 75,000 m³ and a thickness of more than 15 m. The average temperature reaches 1° C in summer and drops to -7° C in winter. In the area allowed for tourists the average temperature is 0° C.

The cave is divided into several sectors. Access is done by a pothole with a diameter of 60 m and a depth of 48 m. At the entrance of the pothole there is the gate to the cave itself, called "The Church" where there are over 100 stalagmitic ice formations. The "Church" hall of the Scărişoara Glacier is unique in the world. This is the tourism area, the rest being a scientific reserve, with two distinct sectors. Descending 15m on the right side of the entrance is the Little Reservation. On the left is the Great Reservation towards which a 20 m vertical descends, at whose base is the Maxim Pop Gallery.

Scărişoara Cave, a speological reserve is the first cave in the country declared a natural monument since 1938. As a tourism object, it can be visited throughout the year in the presence of the cave's guide.

The Scărişoara Glacier is primarily important for science through the complex of phenomena that are due

to the presence of ice and the general structure of the cave. The pothole, through its diverse flora, differentiated on levels, offers an interesting and permanent research ground.

Mud Volcanoes, unique tourist attraction in Romania!



The Mud Volcanoes Natural Reserve is located in the Pâclele area of Buzău County, covers around 30 hectares and is a unique phenomenon in Romania and very rarely met in the world. The volcanoes were noticed for the first time by the Frenchman H. Cognand, in 1867, on the occasion of research conducted in the area, in the oil sector.

The Mud Volcanoes in Buzău County are miniature craters which are formed by the help of natural gas coming from a depth of more than 3000 m. The contact with the groundwater and the clay soil at the surface forms small cones that throw a fluid paste of a gray colour.

The “mud volcano” phenomenon

The phenomenon of "mud volcano" Unlike classic volcano, mud volcanoes take birth by natural gas eruption, seismic movements or postvulcanic emanations. In the Buzău area, these forms of relief were formed due to gas emanations from folded and fault zones that bring up mud to the surface.

In the Berca zone there are 3 areas with mud volcanoes, namely: **Pâclele Mari, Pâclele Mici and Pâclele de la Beciu.**

How to reach there:

The road is marked with signs, access in the area is made from national road DN10, from the locality of Sătuc (part of Berca commune), located 18 km far from Buzău, in the direction of Întorsura Buzăului, after which the villages of Joseni and Policeri are to be crossed.

Tourists are impressed by the strange, but unique, landscape offered by the mud, by the particular plants that adapted to the salinity around, but especially by the noise such a volcano produces through the mud that bubbles from below.

10. Business Opportunities Romanian infoRegional 2/2010

► www.e-licitatie.ro, here you can check periodically the new public procurement launched by the public authorities in Romania

The Information Point of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism



Thank you for reading Romanian InfoRegional!

If you have any questions or you need further information regarding the programmes managed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, please do not hesitate to contact our Information Point.

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