

„*Geography and Tourism on the Iadului Valley*, Dr. Aurelia Dumiter`s second book, written in 2010, is a monograph of a limited geographical area but with striking identity elements given by its placement in a contiguous mountain frame, with varied constitution and landscape: Pădurea Craiului Mountains and Bihor-Vlădeasa Mt.

On the one hand, the omnipresent limestone in Padurea Craiului give this wild area a distinct and particular note by the numerous forms of endokarst (there stands the narrow gorge sector, but sinkholes and karst springs are not absent either - the Toplita Remeti karst spring is remarkable, but most of all by the deep karst: among which Pobraz pithole is 185 m deep), but most of all the nebulous underground hollows attract like magnets: „*In the middle basin of Iadului Valley, between its junction with Lesului and Bisericii valleys, 101 underground hollows have been researched and mapped...*”

On the other hand, the majestic eruptive Vlădeasa enters the scenery with the highest altitudes of the Iadului Basin and by its imposing abrupt with „*enormous bottom debris trains, slope ruptures in the riverbed, which generates the waterfalls (Iadolina, Vălul Miresei, Iedușului)*”.

The Iadului River Basin stands out with its mild winter climate and moderate, moist summers. „*The main characteristics of the mountain climate with cool, moist summers and cold winters, with low mean annual temperatures, below 5⁰C, high nebulosity, rich precipitations and plenty of snow in winter determines a tonic stimulant bioclimate, characterized by low atmospheric pressure, clean air with no dust, rich in ultraviolet radiation and increased atmospheric ionization*”.

Another distinct note is given by the waters that cross the slopes of the surrounding mountains and most of all the presence of the Minunilor Spring at Stâna de Vale and Leșu lake and dam - first rank hotspots of the area and also of Bihor County.

Of course, the pedogeographic and biogeographic elements complement the natural heritage by their unique features: Transylvanian bat (*Syringa josikaea*), aconite with blue hairy flowers (*Aconitum callibotryon spp scarisorensis*), carnation (*Dianthus julii wolffi*), red violet with white stripes (*Viola jooi*), brother-and-sister (*Melampyrum biharensse*).

Such a geographical area is unavoidably characterized by the existence of the human element: „*the natural conditions in the Iadului Valley area, less favourable, allowed the establishment and continuity of the human element, since the 15th century*”. The human settlements network in the Iadului Valley consists of three villages (Bulz, Munteni and Remeti), belonging to Bulz commune and Stâna de Vale resort. Before 1998 Remeti village (the main settlement) had a strong industrial function (given by the hydro sites and mining units) but in recent years, its economic profile has changed, „*the inhabitants of the Iadului Valley sought and found alternative income sources, focusing on fisheries and tourism activities*”.

Unfortunately the natural environment isn't supportive enough, and the population is declining numerically (especially after 1990).

In the second part, the book presents one of the alternate economic activities with some chance of success, namely **tourism**, the rural adapted form, i.e. rural tourism. The Iadului Valley tourism potential doubtlessly exists, much discussion on this issue being no longer need and the valuable elements of the human tourism potential are added to it.

Small villages or hamlets, scattered on valleys and slopes, also humanize the landscape and represent real aesthetical values and thus a real tourist value (P. Cocean, 1984). Even though the villages Bulz, Munteni, Remeti, scattered and dotted about, are not top tourist landmarks, they diversify the tourism offer and have thus a greater role by being situated in the close proximity of natural tourist features.

„The occupations of the inhabitants can become an important tourism asset, especially by their products coming from wood processing, weaving or primary processing of traditional foods. Most of the products obtained in households are for own needs and turning them into tourism consumption products may have an indisputable attractive side. At the same time, those very habits and the simple, sometimes primitive but pure and natural way they are carried out can become tourist attractions for the urban or Western European dweller”.

Bringing together the two components of the tourism potential, the forms and types of tourism that can be practiced in this area are presented (recreational tourism, sports tourism, religious tourism, curative tourism etc).

But the appropriate tourism infrastructure is needed for the successful practice of these forms of tourism. In the communication system on Iadului Valley, the road network consists of county roads and a rich network of forest roads which facilitate the access to the most remote hamlets and also to some tourist attractions. However, we must make reference to the poor state of maintenance of these roads.

The railway system has old traditions in Iadului Valley. Back in the late nineteenth century the valley was crossed by the „*mocănițe*” (called „*pâca*” by the locals), means of transportation specific to mountain regions, especially in the Apuseni Mountains.

On the whole area of Iadului Valley, accommodation belongs to primary and secondary accommodation bases. Iadolina hotel and the chalets Cerbul (the Stag) and Gaudeamus from Stâna de Vale and the Leșu Dam motel belong to the first category.

The secondary accommodation bases are private guesthouses and accommodation, quite poorly represented compared to the tourism potential and camping areas (at Valea Lupului, Coada lacului, Dealul Mare). A new, effective and necessary accommodation base was built in 1995, by upgrading a students` camp in Remeți, with a steady running.

The advantages and disadvantages of tourism development in Iadului Valley are presented instead of conclusions, and a brief bibliographical list concludes this both geographical and touristic incursion.

„Geography and Tourism on Iadului Valley”... a pleasant reading, alert, scientific, argumentative, which invites for a trip on this beautiful parts of Bihor.

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