



Complex Rural Development. A Case Study: The Development of Tourism Activities in the Dorna Basin

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Premises

In the present-day context the rural world still remains a relatively autonomous universe that can be analysed either from outside or from the inside. In this study, we intend to combine the two types of analysis, by combining the knowledge coming from the statistical data provided by speciality publications and the experience gained through direct contact with the rural space, an experience that can only be acquired by living there for a certain period of time.

When referring to the rural areas one cannot speak of a single regional development pattern, but of local models, in which the territorial image of the surveyed area is marked by the specificity of the agricultural entities that generate their own ways of using the available space and the social and the natural capital. The multiplication of economic entities and, in particular, the emergence and stimulation of rural tourism establishments determine not only the expansion of the village's occupational pattern but also certain cultural and communication effects, as tourism turns into a dynamic feature that can bring tradition and modernity closer one to another. Regarded at first with a certain reserve or, on the contrary, with an exaggerated enthusiasm, rural tourism tends to become a genuine economic activity, especially in some parts of the country. There are already enough examples pointing out that tourism can lead to the expansion of professional plurality, the diversification of the agricultures' income sources, the creation of new jobs and can also address the requirements of a clientele that is ever more dynamic as far as their preferences, original location and financial resources are concerned.

The opportunities mentioned above can have an impact not only on the factors that are directly involved in the tourism activity but also on those that can indirectly contribute to the improvement of standards of living of the rural inhabitants (improving the infrastructure condition, environmental protection, rehabilitation of utilities, multiplication of interpersonal contacts).

The role of tourism in the economic development and the improvement of the living standard of a certain place is generally in a close dependency on the availability of natural and/or anthropic resources, on the extent that they are publicly known, on the facilities available for the use of the resources and, last but not least, on the existence of a demand potential that is as high as possible. In time, there emerges a close relation between the location of the specific resources and tourism development, between the variety of these resources and tourism sites, between the scope of the tourism phenomenon and the welfare of the local population.

Delimiting the research area

The geographical location of the Dorna Land [Țara Dornelor], an area featuring natural, social and economical aspects that are favourable for research, by its situation among contrasting geographical forms yet complementary, as far as the tourism potential of the area is concerned, boasts a great variety of natural, historical, social, cultural and economic resources.

Since tourism potential is one of the few resources that can only be consumed “in situ”, its inclusion in the social circuit of values is not only a process of higher use of the existing potential, but also an important factor in the complex development of the respective area, by modernising and consolidating the vitality of the localities of the Dorna area.

From a geographical perspective, the Dorna Depression is delimited by the Suhard Massif (1932 m - Omu peak, 1639 m - Ouşoru peak) to the North, by Călimani Mountains (2100 m - Pietrosu peak) to the South, by the Zugreni Gorges formed between Giumalău (1857 m) and Pietrosu Bistriței (1791 m) mountains to the East being widely open to the West. The average altitude is of 900 m, and the total area is of 222.194 sq m, or 0,63% of the country’s area.

Located in Suceava County, it has relatively low population density (below 45 inhabitants/sq km) and includes 9 communes: Broșteni, Cărlibaba, Crucea, Dorna Arini, Dorna Candreni, Iacobenii, Panaci, Poiana Ștampei, Șaru Dornei and the municipality of Vatra Dornei. All these communities have the same features in terms of the homogeneity of pedoclimatical conditions and social and economic development.

The Dorna Basin is an undulating landform. The landscape features wide river beds, river terraces and higher relief formations between rivers or isolated conical heights locally designated as “batci”, all in exquisite harmony.

According to the density and depth of the fragmentation two sectors emerge here:

- *Dorna Coșna* Depression, watered by the Dorna River and its tributaries: Teșna, Dornișoara, Neagra Dornei, is the most important and features most of the branches;
- *Neagra Șarului* Depression, watered by Dorna and its tributaries Călimănelul and Sărișorul.

The relief has played a vital role in the dispersion and development of the communities. The riverside plains and terraces are favourable for the existence of human settlements and for cultivating agricultural crops specific to mountainous areas. The hilly areas offer conditions for growing fodder plants and rearing animals.

The social and economic potential of the Dorna Basin

The Dorna Depression has a significant contribution in the economic development of Suceava County, and some of the products made here are demanded all over the country or they are exported. The main economic fields are based on the local resources. The agricultural land covers 13% of the area (1% of the arable land), grasslands being predominant: 23% pastures and 31% hayfields.

Private land ownership accounts for 91% of the agricultural land, 99% of the arable land, 81% of the pastures and 99,7% of the hayfields.

The proportion of pastures ranges from 28% in Dorna Arini to 55% in Poiana Ștampei.

Hayfields cover 31% of the area total, in relation to the whole Suceava County and represent 52% of the agricultural area of the region. For the communities in this mountainous region alone, the proportion ranges from 52% in Vatra Dornei to 64% in Dorna Arini.

The proportion of country family farms which do not rear cows ranges from 4 to 85%, of those with 1-3 cows from 14 to 89%, and of those with 3-5 cows from 1 to 18%. The majority of the family farms have 1-2 cows that produce 160-2.840 litres of milk every year. The existence of pastures and forests explains the extensive reliance on wood processing and raising animals of the traditional economy. Since the beginning of the 19th century, the exploitation and processing of the area’s natural resources have also played an important role.

There has been little integration of the farming activities in the area. However, thanks to a programme by the German government, assisted by the Romanian National Committee for Mountain Areas, the Dorna Federation of Mountain Farmers was established to provide the following services:

- offering production tools cheaper by 20-25% than those on the market (due to the absence of resellers) and the possibility to pay in kind for certain periods of time;
- credits for up to 70% of the value of the goods to be purchased, with rates of interest lower by 10-15% than the minimum rates on the market, granting the ‘moral guarantee (membership) and the opportunity to pay back in kind;

**Complex Rural Development. A Case Study:
The Development of Tourism Activities in the Dorna Basin**

- retailing the obtained products (animal products, wood, artefacts);
- free of charge technical and economic assistance;
- fair and exhibition organisation.

The work of this organisation in the area has resulted in the increase in the average size of the family farms for approximately 14% of the members, on average from 3,4 ha and 3,2 UVM to 5,8 ha and 6,5 UVM and of the average annual income per farm, thanks to better exploitation of the products. Another integrator in the Dorna Basin is the Dorna Dairy Concern. By its policy of expanding the dairy products market it has had a positive influence on the farming exploitations focused on raising dairy cattle.

As it is surrounded by forest, Vatra Dornei developed an impressive network for wood exploitation and processing. Initially, the wood was only sold, using the waterways for transportation, such as Bistrița and Dorna rivers. Today, the wood industry in Dorna Basin has two components:

- wood exploitation and transport;
- wood processing and industrialisation.

The wood is processed in the timber factory of Iacobeni, in small enterprises (family associations or LLCs) or the local crafts industry (table 1).

Table 1. Non-agricultural products processing units in the Dorna Depression.

No	Locality	Wood	Stone	Crafts	Other activities	No of jobs
1	Broșteni	16		3	6	133
2	Colibaba	6	1		3	121
3	Crucea	23			1	247
4	Dorna Arini	33	1	5	1	320
5	DornaCandreni	25		5	3	921
6	Iacobeni	5	1	3	2	58
7	Panaci	21		10	1	206
8	Poiana Stampei	36		3	2	110
9	Șaru Dornei	14		1	1	88
10	Vatra Dornei	11	1	5	3	219
	Total	190	4	35	23	2423

Source: Suceava county Agriculture Directorate, 2003 data.

The wild animals, having the largest density of population in the entire country, are used in the food industry, tanning (table 2) and shoe-making or as trophies and museum exhibits.

Table 2. Agricultural and animal products processing units in the Dorna Depression.

No	Locality	Type					Processing of					No of jobs
		SRL	SA	SC	SNC	AF	Milk	Meat	Wool	Skins	Fibre	
1	Broșteni											
2	Colibaba					1	1					20
3	Crucea											
4	Dorna Arini					1	1					26
5	Dorna Candreni	2				2	1			3		85
6	Iacobeni					1	1					21
7	Panaci	1				1	2					42
8	Poiana Stampei					1	1					42
9	Șaru Dornei	2				1	3					79
10	Vatra Dornei	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	1		197
	Total	7	2	1	1	10	13	3	1	4		512

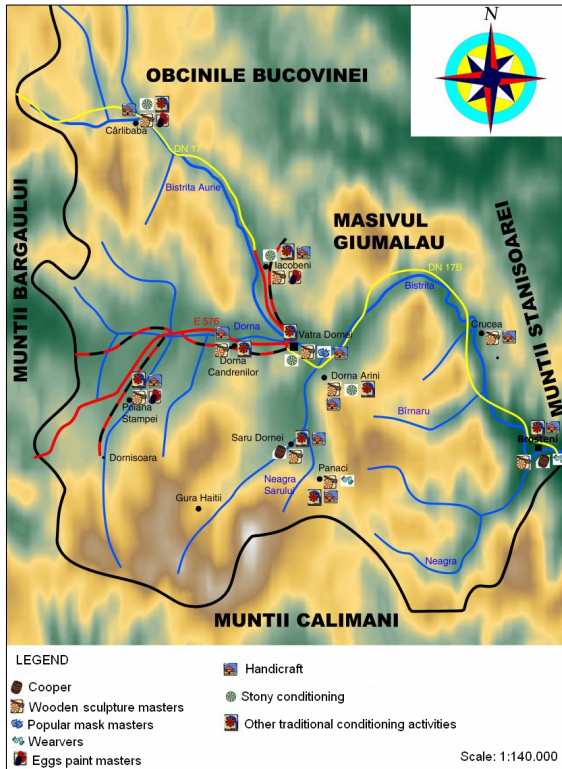
Source: Suceava county Agriculture Directorate, 2003 data.

Pastures have facilitated the extensive animal breeding, an activity in which much of the local population is involved. Cattle are the predominant group, featuring highly productive breeds and density; there are followed by the ovine and the equines.

The meat is mainly processed in the area, in various manners, while the milk is particularly processed at the dairy plant of Vatra Dornei. The wool is sent to plants outside the area – the textiles factory in Rădăuți, the worsted factory in Buhuși, while some is used by the crafts cooperatives and private households for weavings, carpets and clothing. Table 2 presents the distribution of units processing agricultural and animal products of the Dorna Depression region. It may be noticed that most of the locals choose family association as their select legal

entities, while milk is the best source of revenue for their work, probably because of the nearby factory, in Vatra Dornei. As compared to the total employed population of the Dorna Basin, one can notice the relatively high number of people active in agriculture and animal products processing (512 jobs).

Animal skins and furs are processed, along with wood and stone, in most of the places in the depression, and provide about 2.423 jobs. Overall, crafts are well represented in the Dorna Basin, which made us identify them on a map (map 1), to which we attached a list of the craftsmen in the researched communities.



Map 1. Traditional crafts in Dornelor Basin.

The findings are indeed remarkable: each place features quite a diverse range of non-agricultural activities, such as skilled trades, a good starting point for the development of quality agro-tourism in the Dorna region.

The economic profile of the communes in the Dorna Depression

The researched region features a blueprint typical of mountainous areas.

The town of Vatra Dornei, located at the confluence of Dorna and Bistrița rivers, boasts a diversified economy, based on the chief activities in the Dorna Depression: animal husbandry, wood processing, mining and mineral springs. The town administers three subdivisions (Argestru, Roșu and Todireni) and is an important destination for tourism and relaxation and revitalisation during holidays.

Vatra Dornei is also drawing attention because of the many curative mineral springs in the area. The therapeutic quality of the springs of Poiana Negri was discovered in 1896 by the physician Ignatz Plunshk, and in 1845 the first spa was established there. Afterwards, the resort became ever more famous due to the large number of visitors.

Broșteni commune is situated at the confluence of Negrișoara and Bistrița rivers and integrates 5 villages. It has diversified economy: forestry and mining centre (manganese deposits), micro-hydroelectric power station, textiles (cotton factories), food products (dairy, bakery), and mineral springs (sparkling, bicarbonate, calcium, manganese, ferruginous waters with diuretic and laxative effects).

Cârlibaba (or Colibaba) commune lies at the confluence of Cârlibaba and Țibău rivers with Bistrița River and has 6 villages. The main economic activities are cattle and pig husbandry, and manganese and lead mining, attested since 1782.

Crucea commune has 4 villages and is located in the Bistrița Gorges area around Zugreni, at the confluence of the Barnarel and Bistrița rivers. For decades, most of the active population has been involved in the exploitation of complex ores and uranium.

Dorna Arini is a commune of 6 villages lying at the confluence of Neagra Șarului and Bistrița rivers. The inhabitants are employed in cattle breeding and dairy production (Ortoaia village).

Dorna Candrenilor is located along Dorna River and has 8 villages. At Poiana Negri there is a spa (peat therapy) and a station for bottling mineral water. Other important activities here: wood and dairy processing and cattle breeding. Coșna village is an important centre for the production of traditional winter coats, vests and belts.

Iacobeni Commune is found on the upper course of the Bistrița River and has 4 villages. It features peat exploitations (Botoș village), chalk exploitations (Ciocanesti village) and

**Complex Rural Development. A Case Study:
The Development of Tourism Activities in the Dorna Basin**

manganese ores (exploited since the 1770s in the Iacobeni, Ciocănești and Mestecăniș villages). The local industry also includes the construction of equipment for mining, quarrying and construction, whitewash and timber factories, and a centre for artistic wood processing. There is a seasonal resort that attracts mainly locals, with a refreshing mountain climate and mineral springs with low sulphur and mineral contents, recommended for intestinal illnesses. At Iacobeni there is wooden church dating from 1812, while at Ciocănești there are many houses with exterior traditional designs.

Panaci has 6 villages spread along the upper course of Neagra River. It is a centre for traditional wood processing.

Poiana Ștampei, situated in the West of the Dorna Depression, it integrates 7 villages. In the commune there are peat, andesite and dacite exploitations, a Schweitzer cheese plant and mineral carbonic springs.

Șaru Dornei is located in the South of Dorna Depression, along Neagra Șarului River. The local industry is diverse and includes: the exploitation of manganese (Șarul Dornei village), sulphur (Gura Haitii village), and peat (Neagra Șarului village); a dairy plant, a mill (1890) in Gura Haitii; a spa; and a mineral water bottling station. Our research has revealed that all of the communes' industry is largely based on the exploitation of non-ferrous ores. There were important changes in the occupational structure of the Dorna Depression population in the years 2003-2004. Thus, during the stated period, 519 persons were laid off from the local mines (47% of the unemployed in the Dorna Basin) and depending on their age and own alternatives they moved to animal farming, trade or tourism. The situation of lay-offs in the mining industry is detailed in table 3.

Table 3. Situation of lay-offs in the mining industry of Dorna Basin.

No	Locality	Population		Unemployed		No of active businesses			
		Total	Active population	Total	Lay-offs in mining industry	Total	Of which		
						Products and services	Commerce	Manufacture and commerce	
1	Broșteni	6795	1300	425	110	36	5	31	
2	Crucea	2330	1600	47	30	46	28	18	
3	Panaci	2416	1412	125	86	45	24	21	
4	Șaru Dornei	4407	2700	100	10	110	52	58	
5	Iacobeni	2056	1841	143	60	40	20	20	
6	Cărlibaba	2045	-	11	-	27	8	19	
7	Dorna Arini	3180	2146	31	28	29	19	10	
8	Poiana Ștampei	2348	420	130	195	54	36	12	6
9	Dorna Candrenilor	4803	2200	100	-	56	29	27	
Total:		30380	13619	1112	519	443	221	216	6

Source: Research on the layoffs in the mining industry in the Dorna Basin - 2003, eng. Ungureanu, D., CEFIDEC Vatra Dornei.

Table 4. Homes identified as agritourism establishments in the Dorna Basin.

No	Locality	Established agritourism homes		Homes identified as agritourism establishments		Homes being modernised for agritourism		Agritourism establishments under construction	
		Licensed	No of beds	licensed	No of beds	Licensed	No of beds	Licensed	No of beds
1	Broșteni	2	14	3	14				
2	Colibaba			9	55				
3	Crucea			3	10				
4	Dorna Arini	17	46	10	40	4	14	3	20
5	Dorna Candreni	1	7	14	51	5	15	1	7
6	Iacobeni	2	7	10	32				
7	Panaci	6	34	8	32	3	15	1	15
8	Poiana Ștampei	3	21	4	16	1	7	1	7
9	Șaru Dornei	2	16	8	33			2	14
10	Vatra Dornei	37	278	8	34	6	41	5	70
TOTAL		70	423	77	317	19	92	13	133

Source: Suceava county Agriculture Directorate, 2003 data.

This is the reason why, in 2003, a relatively large number of private homes were added to the lodging establishments already existing in the Dorna Basin, which we have classified as follows:

- established agri-tourism homes;
- homes identified/designated as agri-tourism establishments;
- homes being modernised for agri-tourism;
- agri-tourism establishments under construction.

The situation for each commune is itemised in table 4.

Development of tourism activities in the Dorna Basin area

Tourism related activities in the Dorna Basin have evolved, in a relatively short time, from being a promising prospect of development to a well-defined social and economic activity, regulated by proper legislation and institutions.

By its extent and structure, tourism movement is a reflex of the balance occurring in a given area between the tourism potential of the respective area, the facilities that highlight it, and the volume of solvable demand of tourism services. It is actually a case of partial balances, achieved according to the different fields of interest. In the relation between the geographical area – as a tourism resource – and the human factor, the former component, although playing a passive role, is vital in defining the type of tourism practice, whereas the second, characterised by mobility of option, introduces elements of differentiation, thus calling for a more subtle approach in any attempt to classify tourism types.

Given its peculiar nature as a relatively confined space, dominated by mountains and featuring moderate human presence, in the current social and economic context, Dorna Depression provides for relatively few types of tourism, some of which have only just been initiated. The types of tourism that can be carried out in the area may greatly develop providing high standard facilities and the economic situation improves through the expansion in the range of services offered and the increased demand solvability. The following types of tourism have the greatest impact on the geographical and social and cultural situation of the Vatra Dornei area:

Mountain tourism (hiking) - the depression area of the Dorna is the starting point for climbing to the surrounding peaks. Such *mountain trips* involve leisure climbing to vantage points. There are three main trekking routes starting from Vatra Dornei and 15 other secondary trails, around 300 km long. The most spectacular and hence the most frequented routes start from Vatra Dornei to the mountain massifs of Giumalau and Suhard, passing through the villages on the Southern rim of the depression (Dornișoara, Poiana Negrii, Neagra Șarului, Coverca, Panaci) towards Bistrița and Călimani Mountains or going along the Bistrița River valley, towards the Zugreni Gorges.

- a) **Movement tourism** is particularly facilitated by the existence of a wide range of tourism attractions in the central area of the depression: natural resources, wood churches, museums, traditional villages, etc, and by the extensive network of good quality roads.
- b) **Mountain tourism associated to winter sports**, requiring a great volume of investments and vast technical equipment, is practised in an organised manner only in Vatra Dornei. Also known as *active tourism*, it features several types:
 1. *Mountaineering and alpinism* are practised on:
 - Rarău Massif, with 3 to 9-class routes;
 - Rusca Rock;
 - Dorna 1 Rock, kitted out with 24 artificial holds.
 2. *Hang gliding*. In the Dorna Basin there are optimal areas for hang gliding through the Suhard Massif (Oușoru peak), Giumalău Plateau, and Călimani Massif.
 3. *Alpine Skiing*, in various forms:
 - Chairlift track: has to be authorised, 3.200 m long, 400 m drop, chairlift installation;
 - Park track: already authorised, 900 m long, 150 drop, chairlift and baby-chairlift installation.

**Complex Rural Development. A Case Study:
The Development of Tourism Activities in the Dorna Basin**

4. *Ice climbing* – the Ice cascade at Moara Dracului, Zugreni Gorges, is being set up every December.
 5. For *cross-country skiing, biathlon* and *freestyle skiing* there are designated areas with proper facilities in Vatra Dornei.
 6. *River rafting* can be practised on Bistrița and Dorna rivers. The routes are 12,5 to 20 km long. Distances can vary depending on tourists' preferences.
- c) **Transit tourism** is related to the location of the Dorna Depression at the convergence of certain important communication axes linking Moldavia with Transylvania and Maramureș, the latter regions boasting remarkable tourism resources, in their respective mountainous and sub-mountainous regions.
- d) **Cultural and scientific tourism** has developed thanks to the existence, in the Dorna Depression and its proximity, of some unique sites of great cultural and scientific value, which are constantly researched by specialists of various fields such as biology, geography, geology etc. Every year, numerous teams of experts and students come from the main Romanian and even foreign universities for scientific and formative and educational visits. The standard of the accommodation however obstructs the development of this type of tourism to the true potential of the local geographical setting.
- e) **Therapeutic tourism** for leisure and treatment is also specific to the area due to the existence of two health resorts: Vatra Dornei, a resort of a national importance, and Poiana Negrii, which attracts mainly locals, as well. Two other types of tourism have also developed in the Dorna Basin, namely the *recreational hunting* and the *recreational fishing*.
- f) **Recreational hunting tourism** covers a limited area and attracts a smaller number people. Some species of mammals as well as birds, especially migratory ones, are hunted. In some cases hunting is a form of selection as it targets the weaker animals. There are some private hunting chalets, exclusively reserved for foreign tourists.¹ They are located in: Barnar, down from Crucea village (Bistrița Mt), Braniște (in Frasin, for Stânișoara Mt) and Dârmoxa (Drăgoiasa village, Panaci commune, for Bistrița Mt).
- g) **Recreational fishing tourism** is continually expanding and it is related to the fauna specific to mountain regions, which includes the native trout (*Salmo trutta fario*), found in rivers at over 1.000 m altitude; the umber (*Chondostroma nasus*) and the dace (*Leuciscus cephalus*), these two species being specific to the rivers in the depression.
- h) **Agri-tourism** now constantly developing, has been facilitated by the remarkable potential of the Vatra Dornei micro-area, with its natural setting, the social and cultural background, the standard of living, the diversity of traditional trades, prerequisites of attracting a varied clientele to this form of tourism. Theoretically, all the rural communities that are still relying on farming meet the requirements of agri-tourism. Practically, however, there exist a series of conditions, related to four main factors: location factors (proximity to areas with complementary potential of attraction that are easily accessible), landscape factors (the quality of the natural and anthropic setting), economic factors (a personal agricultural profile, animated by its correspondence with other activities, the use of local resources and traditions), demographic and cultural factors (vigorous, open and skilled workforce, able to fulfil the requirements of high standard tourism services).

Analysed from this perspective, the agro-tourism practice emerges as highly complex, especially in terms of harmonising the daily life of the locals with the demands of the tourism consumer, much more since the villages that best preserve the traditional values are also the least prepared (in terms of infrastructure, funds and even culture) to provide attractive tourism services.

From the hygiene conditions (for aliments, clothes, lodging) to the utilities that are indispensable for a modern comfort (running water, hot water, sewage system, telephone, leisure opportunities) or the appearance of the household and the cleanliness of the outhouses, on which agri-tourism is actually based, all require updating, however without spoiling the local distinctiveness.

¹ *Județul Suceava. Ghid turistic*, Ed. Bucovina Istorică, Suceava, 2003, p. 112.

The research carried out in the Vatra Dornei micro-area indicates a specific type of agri-tourism, proper to mountain regions, yet with distinctive features for each individual village and commune. Throughout however, the agro-tourism emerges as a powerful and promising complementary path towards diversified development of the rural economy. The fundamental element of this development is that the sustainable development of these communities is achieved by the new orientation of agricultural exploitations. Under the new circumstances, the members of agricultural exploitations preserve their status of farmers, yet gradually acquire the skills needed for tourism services, food production, craftsmanship and other goods demanded by the tourists. This transformation ensures the complex development of the communities in accordance with the multiple qualifications and the increased revenue generated by the marketing of local products, which is favourable for the development of the entire region.

The study of the social and economic topology of the contemporary village homes in the Dorna area shows an average of 3,6 persons per household, grouped in three distinct groups:

- ❖ The first type of household is formed by two persons, both over 55 years old, which results in a reduced economic power. The home could be used for agro-tourism but, due to the owners' limited resources and their mediocre or sub mediocre social and cultural level they cannot get involved in this activity.
- ❖ The second type of household has more than 4 family members and usually spanning 2-3 generations. Although this type of household possesses the economic capacity and the proper facilities, it is not adequate for tourism, on one hand because of the contrasting views of the different generations and on the other hand due to the occupational pattern of the family, namely those that could be involved in agro-tourism are already seriously engaged in other economic activities, as farmers or employees.
- ❖ The third type of household, which provides the adequate environment for the development of rural tourism, is made up of 3–4 members (a single family having two generations at most), who are economically increasing, being able to work intensively, needing to have a social and cultural status (at least one member is a secondary school graduate) and having the required facilities in place or under construction. In this type of household parents are 20-30 years old and their children 10-25 years old.

Such households belong both to farmers and public officers or intellectuals in the communities of the mountain areas. The study attests that the highlighting of the tourism resources is largely dependent on the arrangement of the elements adjacent to the proper tourism potential, on the density and quality of the required facilities for the access to and consumption of tourism values. There have been great developments in certain components of the general infrastructure especially in what the density and quality of roads of the depression area, the quality of the residences and energy supply are concerned.

Others however, and unfortunately those that are particularly indicative of the living standard – access to the communications networks, the construction of modern water supply networks and of sewage systems – are totally insufficient to ensure the proper tourism facilities and appeal to tourists. Nevertheless, one can notice an obvious increase of the Dorna Basin aiming at improving the living standards in most of the communities and hence the accommodation standards for tourists.

Table 5. Facilities of private permanent and seasonal residences of the Dorna Depression.

Locality	Total no of residents	Running water	Sewage public network	Sewage private system	Electricity	Thermal heating	Thermal station	In-house toilet	Outside toilet	In-house Kitchen	Outside kitchen
Vatra Dornei	5.740	4.187	3.678	476	5.687	695	321	3.789	156	5.167	148
Broșteni	2.279	1.017	606	407	2.218	0	38	907	41	2.044	160
Dorna Condreni	1.726	422	1	353	1.649	0	8	228	25	1.397	165
Dorna Arini	1.147	275	3	263	1.088	0	11	182	29	893	144
Iacobeni	1.337	476	249	226	1.316	0	8	379	26	1.071	154
Panaci	891	144	3	129	873	0	2	84	21	685	141
Poiana Stampei	763	105	2	103	713	0	8	80	11	588	78
Șaru Dornei	1.622	511	152	355	1.556	0	8	377	33	1.153	297
TOTAL	15.505	7.137	4.694	2.312	15.100	695	404	6.026	342	12.998	1.287

Source: Population and residential census 2002, Suceava County Statistics Directorate.

**Complex Rural Development. A Case Study:
The Development of Tourism Activities in the Dorna Basin**

Table 5 analyses the existing facilities in private permanent and seasonal residences of the Dorna Depression, as registered by the 2002 census.

Thus, whereas 93-99% of the homes had access to electricity, the situation improved for indicators partially disdained prior to 2000, such as: in-house running water supply (from 14% in Poiana Stampei, to 24% in Dorna Candrenilor and Dorna Arini up to 45% in Broșteni and 75% in Vatra Dornei), private sewage system (23% in Dorna Arini and Șaru Dornei, 17% in Broșteni and Iacobeni), public sewage system (64% in Vatra Dornei, 27% in Broșteni, 19% in Iacobeni and 9% in Șaru Dornei), and even the installation of central heating stations or the building of kitchens indoors.

In the area of Vatra Dornei town, the *running water* supplies come from Dorna River. For the rest of the area, the water is collected from wells and subterraneous springs. The communes of Iacobeni, Neagra Șarului, Cârlibaba, Poiana Stampei have basins for water purification.

Hot water is provided by thermal charcoal and less often gas-fuelled, heating stations. The waste disposal network is satisfactory.

The *natural gas* distribution network is almost completed. The town of Vatra Dornei itself is not yet connected to the gas network so it is still dependent on gas tanks. Bradul and Calimani hotels, which belong to the Dorna-Tourism company benefit of 12 gas tanks.

The *thermal energy* distribution network. Heat is provided only in Vatra Dornei, by a thermal station running on sawdust (inaugurated in the spring of 2004) and the district heating stations that run on light liquefied gas (they are to become thermal energy distribution points once the network is extended). In Vatra Dornei the heating system meets the needs of the population and companies. In the rest of the area, heating is provided by wood-fuelled stoves.

The *electricity* distribution network covers 92% of the inhabitable area, while it doesn't reach the distant private homes found at high altitude on the mountains.

The depression area has access to a mixed (analogue and numerical) *telephone network* and to the mobile phone networks. Coverage by the Orange mobile communications network in the area dates back to November 1997. The area around the communities of Panaci, Iacobeni, Cârlibaba is not completely covered by the mobile phone networks.

Tourism accommodation establishments providing lodging and meals services for tourists

Among the wide range of tourism facilities (the tourism material resources) *the accommodation establishments* are vital for a functional and efficient tourism activity.

According to the data gathered in 2002, in the Dorna Basin there are 485 accommodation places available in boarding houses, of which 190 (39%) are located in Vatra Dornei.

Most boarding houses are classified in the category of 2 daisies, and there is only one boarding house of 3-daisies, in Dorna Candrenilor.

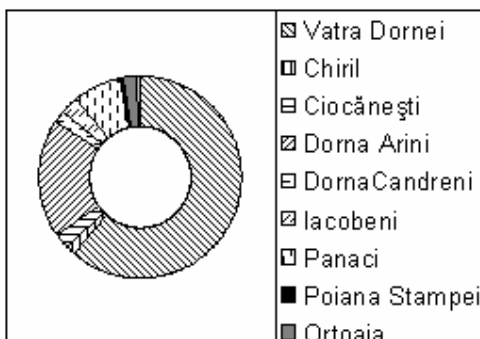


Figure 1. Accommodation capacity of the boarding houses in the Dorna Basin.

Leisure facilities are particularly developed in Vatra Dornei (skiing tracks, chairlifts and river rafting down the mountain rapids). *Tourism services* could be extremely diverse, according to the specificity of the area, the seasons, the local traditions etc. Such services may include: tourism transportation, escorting and guiding services on certain routes, meal services, information about the tourism

resources and the access to them, initiation in sports and crafts, providing the equipment for these activities, cultural and entertainment features. Nowadays, the range of services provided to the customers is limited, and their quality is well below standard. The reasons for this are complex and reside in the lack of qualification and responsibility of those who administer the

tourism potential, their scarce financial resources and the insufficient censure of tourists themselves. Practically, besides providing lodging and sometimes meal services, not many services are offered so that to attract and unwind the people who are on vacation.

Table 6. The situation of tourism accommodation establishments and of the number of tourists in the researched localities of Vatra Dornei micro-zone (2002).

Locality	Total	Total no of tourists	Romanian tourists
Total	25	2.024	1.969
Dorna Arini	16	1.309	1.266
Dorna Candreni	2	-	-
Iacobeni	5	672	662
Poiana Stampei	1	12	12
Şaru Dornei	1	31	29

Source: Suceava County Statistics Directorate

In addition to the accommodation and the therapeutic facilities, public food retail in the Vatra Dornei resort also contributes to raising its status and power of attraction. The specificity of the products offered contributes to a varied offer and adds to other aspects of the tourism material facilities. Thus, for the spas based on the treatment of digestive or cardiac diseases, the particular treatment is accompanied by a rigorous diet. Despite that there is the wide range of local public food retailers that also play a significant part in the tourism offer. The rearrangement of the public food retail network depends on the accommodation capacity (it is believed that for an accommodation place 1,5 to 2 places are actually needed to meet transit tourism requirements), while profile depends on the complexity and functional nature of the tourism sites. Most important among these are the restaurants, which have emerged in parallel with the expansion of the hotels, as well as the boarding house canteens (specific to resorts). In Vatra Dornei resort, the total capacity of restaurants within hotels and villas is of at least 1791 places. Besides the restaurants there are also the cafes. Throughout the resort, apart from the restaurants belonging to the hotels, there are others such as Select restaurant, Fast – Food - Crisvel restaurant, Valea Dornelor restaurant, Les Amis restaurant, the Bristena patisserie. We should also mention the discos, a pleasant place to spend the evenings with friends: Video Discoteca „Club OK” and Disco Club „XXL”. As *tourism management* in the Vatra Dornei micro-zone is regarded, there is an office of ANTREC-Bucovina branch. It includes 23 members, accredited agri-tourism farms, 14 of which are located in Dorna Arini and are part of the Foundation for the Development of Mountain Tourism “Țara Dornelor”, while 3 establishments (from Panaci, Ciocănești, Neagra Șarului) are on the way to receive the classification certificate and become members of the association. The Federation of Mountain Farmers Dorna – Agritourism, a non-profit member of ANTREC – Bucovina Branch, is another association active in the Vatra Dornei area, including the Vatra Dornei municipality, Brosteni town and 10 adjacent communes: Dorna Candrenilor, Dorna Arini, Crucea, Iacobeni, Poiana Ștampei, Șaru Dornei, Cârlibaba, Panaci, Coșna. The association has a shop which sells cheaper building materials to the members of the federation. The same shop sells traditional artefacts made by the women in the area (wool carpets, pullovers, painted eggs etc), granting the villagers’ access to the local and European market (Germany).

Conclusions

The Dorna Depression has an area of 222.194 sq km, or 0,63% of the national area. The region has 9 communes summing up 49 villages and an urban centre, Vatra Dornei, localities that are part of Suceava County all forming the Dorna Basin.

The research carried out indicates that in the rural area of the Dorna Basin the favourable factors for development are: *the wide range of natural resources* (chiefly subsoil mineral resources, forest vegetation, agricultural land that facilitates animal husbandry, valuable elements of the natural environment); *the human potential* (the cheap and plentiful work force, partly qualified for agricultural and non-agricultural activities, the youth who ensure its regeneration); *the forestry potential; natural reserves and monuments; special landscape and*

**Complex Rural Development. A Case Study:
The Development of Tourism Activities in the Dorna Basin**

heritage sites (historical, cultural, architectural and ethnographic); the local experience in animal husbandry, craftsmanship, trades and agro-tourism.

The hostile factors to the rural development of the researched areas include: the continuous depopulation; limited diversification of the economic activities; non-efficient agriculture; low incomes; poor state of the roads – most of the communal roads have not been modernised and over 61% of the rural population does not have a direct access to the main roads and the railway network; the insufficient and inadequate water supply; shortage of doctors – there are three times more persons for a doctor than in the urban areas; the education network is not varied, the school buildings provide modest conditions and lack in the proper specialised facilities; degradation of the forests, especially due to uncontrolled deforestation.

Table 7. Craftsmen in the Vatra Dornei micro-area.

No.	Craft	Surname and forename	Locality	Address
1.	Cooper	Amariei Dan	Broșteni, Cotârğași	sat Cotârğași
2.	Wood carver	Apetri Dragoș	Panaci	sat Coverca
3.	Wood carver	Irinaru Emilia	Panaci	sat Coverca
4.	Wood carver	Irinaru Sorin	Panaci	sat Coverca
5.	Wood carver	Miron Dan	Panaci	sat Glodu
6.	Wood carver	Moraru Cristian	Panaci	sat Glodu
7.	Weaver	Cimpoieșu Georgeta	Broșteni	sat Cotârğași
8.	Weaver	Frunză Elena	Broșteni	sat Cotârğași
9.	Weaver	Negrileanu Elena	Broșteni	sat Cotârğași
10.	Weaver	Petrescu Rodica	Broșteni	sat Cotârğași
11.	Weaver	Lostun Elvira	Panaci	sat Panaci
12.	Weaver	Mândrilă Ioana	Panaci	sat Panaci
13.	Weaver	Niculită Didina	Panaci	sat Panaci
14.	Weaver	Petrovici Teodora	Panaci	sat Panaci
15.	Weaver	Ungureanu Ana	Panaci	sat Drăgoiasa
16.	Weaver	Țiganetea Mariana	Panaci	sat Glodu
17.	Egg painter	Bobeciuc Rodica	Cârlibaba	sat Cârlibaba
18.	Egg painter	Mehno Viorica	Cârlibaba	sat Cârlibaba
19.	Egg painter	Pentelenciuc Ana	Cârlibaba	sat Țibău
20.	Wood carving, hatchets	Mehno Alexa	Cârlibaba	sat Cârlibaba
21.	Wood carving, hatchets	Ursachi Constantin	Cârlibaba	sat Iedu
22.	Wood carving, hatchets	Coubis Gh. Ilie	Cârlibaba	sat Țibău
23.	Wood carving, hatchets	Coubis N. Petru	Cârlibaba	sat Țibău

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