

**DATOURWAY**  
**Investment Guidebook**

Jointly for our common future

DATOURWAY Investment Guidebook is developed under the project „Transnational Strategy for the Sustainable Territorial Development of the Danube Area with special regard to Tourism” (DATOURWAY) within the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, co-financed by the European Union.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The DATOURWAY project has been elaborated by a partnership of 16 organizations from seven countries, in the frame of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Program. The partnership comprises a partner from an Old EU Member State (Italy), eight partners from New EU Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia) two partners from a Candidate Country (Croatia) and four partners from an SAA country (Serbia). The aim of the project is to contribute to the sustainable development of tourism along the southeastern section of the Danube River, to enhance the natural and cultural values of the area and promote economical, social, infrastructural and environmental conditions to serve the local inhabitants, businesses as well as visitors.

The three year project started in May 2009. The national, in depth studies of the project area have been summarized in a transnational synthesis. The transnational evaluation highlights the development potentials and strengths to promote, the obstacles and problems to overcome, the opportunities to be exploited and the dangers to be avoided or mitigated. The integrated, action oriented evaluation is the base of the strategy building.

Meanwhile the elaboration of demonstration projects on areas concentrating typical issues of transnational tourist development. Networking and the development of an information base for tourist destination management are also emerging outputs of the Datourway project.

The experience of this international cooperative project will be adaptable in the areas of other big rivers of the SEE space, where similar issues prevail.

The Investment Guide, as a part of WP4, is addressed to the investors and experts and gives them basic information about the investment environments. It summarizes the foreign investment trends, investment regulations, and governmental business preferences. It informs us about the characteristics and investment possibilities by counties, especially in tourist industry. In this part, ongoing and proposed projects are listed, with the necessary basic data, and financing requirement.

The Danube connects ten European States with different historical political economical and cultural background, uniting Eastern –Western –Southern European regions at the same time. After the Second World War, the profile of eight states of the Danube region is strongly influenced by the Soviet political system. These countries, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria, were governed by Communist Parties, (under different party names) and directly or indirectly controlled by the regime in Moscow.  
(Serbia and Croatia were parts of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

The Cold War increased the number of reasons for the division of Europe into two parts along the borders of NATO and Warsaw Pact states, along the free market economies and Communist economies. The “Iron Curtain era” was pregnant with consequences. These countries seceded from the world market and the Western European countries; they built up an unnatural economic and social system. This secession characterized the region much stronger, than any other historical, economic or cultural difference in the past.

After demolishing the Iron Curtain the East-West division ended in Europe, but the Communist countries were not entirely able to get rid of the Soviet heritage within the last twenty years. After 1990, these countries have built up fast new democratic political systems and market

economies. The process was speed up by the intensive inflow of working capital, new industrial technologies, but involved the degradation of economical capacities of Soviet period. As to the relationship to the European Union, the post communist Danube countries are in different stages. Some of them are already members of EU or EU-EMU, others are candidate for membership. Slovakia, Hungary have sign and implemented the so called Schengen Agreement, that means virtually no border controls between countries, except under special circumstances during major events. Likewise, a visa granted for any SA signatory country is valid in all other countries within the Schengen zone. Romania and Bulgaria are to be members in his next future.

A strong transnational region of the above-said countries is the area alongside the Danube, with 75 million inhabitants, connecting old and new democracies, in the post Communist era symbolizing the successful reunification of Europe.

The Danube is only a symbol of the “new” enlarged Europe; the effective cooperation of the concerned countries has not been realized. The cultural, economical, touristic potential possibilities are under-utilized, we are in the preliminary phase of this development. Present study and its investment guide are to promote this process and to give useful information for individuals, firms and institutions being interested in investment and development in the Danube region.

This Investment guide is a direct follow-up of the transnational strategy. The Ivestment Guide can be a useful tool in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

## **2. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE COUNTRIES**

### **2.1 SLOVAKIA**

#### *2.2.1 INTRODUCTION - INVESTMENT TRENDS*

Slovakia is full-fledged member of the European Union, NATO, OECD and Schengen zone. Slovakia joined the euro zone on 1st of January 2009 and thus it has become the 16th member state of the euro zone because it fulfilled all the required Maastricht criteria.

The country's high and fast economic development serves to explain its having the highest GDP growth in the European Union in 2007 and the second highest in 2008. Because of the world economic crisis the GDP growth in 2009 was negative, but still Slovakia managed to maintain one of the best GDP growths in 2010 in the EU. In 2011 Slovakia is expected to have the GDP growth in positive numbers again.

The country enjoys positive ratings from international rating companies and gained the best position among the CEE countries in World Bank's Doing Business Report 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Current best investment opportunities are observed in sectors R&D, Design & Innovation, Technology centers, ICT & SW development, BPO - Regional headquarters, High-tech sectors and Tourism centers. Additional opportunities can be found in the traditionally strong sectors with the growth potential found in Slovakia: Machinery & Precision engineering, Automotive, Metallurgy & Metal processing, Electronics and Chemistry & Pharmacy.

According to the state corporation the SARIO Agency ([www.sario.sk](http://www.sario.sk)) which enables foreign investments. Slovakia is an ideal investment destination mainly because of the following aspects:

- Favorable location in the heart of Europe
- Political and economical stability strengthened by the common European currency
- Euro
- simple and fair taxation system incl. 19% flat tax rate and 0% dividend tax,
- Sufficiency of highly skilled and educated labor force
- Favorable labor costs at a relatively high labor productivity
- Euro – official currency since 2009
- Large selection of industrial land and offices available for purchase and lease
- Harmonized investment incentives with EU legislation
- Quality of the infrastructure that is growing steadily
- High innovation potential for R&D projects in the field of science and research

#### Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest developing industries of the Slovak economy. The position of Slovakia in the heart of Europe and at the intersection of trade routes, its cultural, historical and natural wealth and the favorable climatic conditions, all create the potential for even greater development of this industry in our country. Northern Slovakia has excellent conditions especially for winter sports and hiking, while southern Slovakia offers waterside holidays and

thermal waters. Throughout whole Slovakia there is a wealth of cultural, historical and natural attractions. Slovakia is also well known for its spas. In addition, a great deal of accommodation, catering and supplementary service capacity already exists in Slovakia. However, there is room for further expansion.

The main reasons why to invest to tourism in Slovakia are following:

- Central location in the heart of Europe - proximity to well developed markets with client base
- Common European Currency - EURO
- Topography of the country
- Water surfaces and thermal waters
- Mountains and hills
- Advantageous climate for all year tourism
- Forests and protected territories, well preserved nature
- Castles, chateaus and manor houses – cultural, architectural and historical richness
- Cultural heritage, folk art, handicrafts, festivals
- Unique preconditions for balneal and health tourism
- Beneficial price levels
- Well performing economy
- Business friendly environment
- Taxation system – flat tax rate of 19 % - simple, fair, neutral, effective
- Flexible labor market and Labor Code
- Low wages in tourism field
- Well educated labor force, incl. very good foreign language command
- Developing infrastructure
- Tourism development is one of Slovak Government's priorities
- State Aid and other investment incentives for tourism

Attracting FDI to tourism in Slovakia has also become new agenda and one of the priorities of the Sario agency. Activities of this agenda include searching for investment opportunities in Slovakia, creating their database for the possibility to offer them to foreign investors, providing consultations regarding the best investment opportunities and state aid.

### *2.1.2. GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS*

The Labor Code includes the Slovak labor law essential regulations. In the past few years, it was an instrument of the government policy. The last amendment in June 2011 is expected that will make the labor take on more flexible and will make Slovakia more attractive for foreign investors.

Labor Code can be found on the following webpage:

<http://www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?SMC=1&id=21466>

Foreign companies, as customary in the European Union, can undertake without restrictions in Slovakia. The Commercial Code regulates functioning of enterprises:

<http://portal.gov.sk/Portal/sk/Default.aspx?CatID=39&aid=728>

Trade Licensing regulates functioning of individual entrepreneurs:

<http://www.minv.sk/?trade-licencing>

If an alien wants to take on work in Slovakia the current round of duties are located on <http://www.eures.sk/?lan=3> page.

The concerning occupational safety regulations are to be found on the WebPages of [National labor inspectorate](#): [www.ip.gov.sk](http://www.ip.gov.sk), [www.safework.gov.sk](http://www.safework.gov.sk)

The competition regulations are located on the Antimonopoly Office of the Slovak Republic WebPages: [www.antimon.gov.sk/?lang=1033](http://www.antimon.gov.sk/?lang=1033)

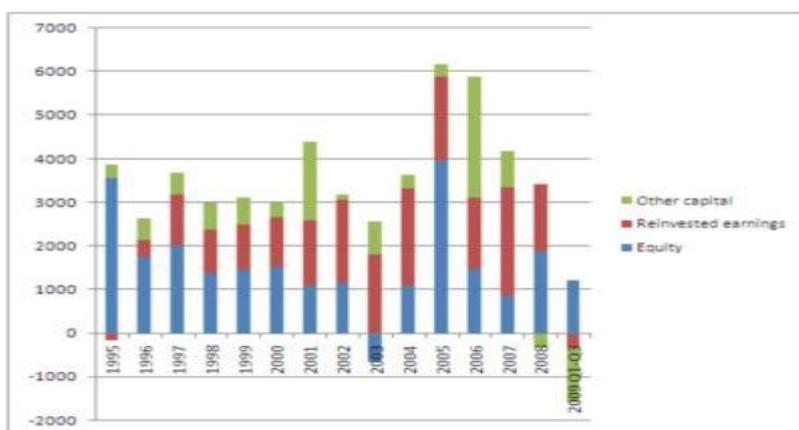
Regulations concerning environmental protection are on <http://enviroportal.sk> and <http://www.minzp.sk/en/> WebPages.

## 2.2 HUNGARY

### 2.2.1 INTRODUCTION - INVESTMENT TRENDS

In the 1980's Hungary had been relatively well prepared for the introduction of market economy, and therefore, after the political changes Hungary attracted the highest per capita rate of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Eastern Europe. Later this advantage decreased, but the total amount of FDI reached more than € 60 billion till the end of 2009.

From 2008 the global economic crisis influenced the level of investments, in 2009 this trend continued, though the inflow of equity capital increased compared to 2008. The level of reinvestment in Hungary generally rather high (more than 50% of the all investments) but from 2009 this figure was relatively low, compared to other capital inflow.



FDI IN HUNGARY IN MILLION EUR

Source: FDI statistics, 2009, ICEG, 2010

It is interesting to take a brief look at the development of different types of investments and to observe, how they were by the global economic crisis.

#### Housing development

A significant housing boom between 2000 and 2003 (with government subsidy) was followed by a decline in the home building activity. House prices, however, remain comparatively low by European standards. Average properties can be rented for anything between HUF 15,000 (US\$75) and HUF 200,000 (US\$1000) per month, excluding utilities. In 2010, nationwide house prices fell by 9.93% (-14.50 inflation-adjusted) in one year. In the same years residential building permits issued fell by 46%, while the volume of construction of buildings was down by 5%. Moreover, house sales were down by 50% at end-2009, according to a survey conducted by Business Monitor International.

Two main factors led to the housing market downturn: the economy was in recession in 2009; and credit providers have tightened issuance of mortgages. (Swiss Franc loan crisis)

#### Office development

The development of the office building was spectacular in Budapest from the early 1990s onwards. By the end of 2008 modern office building stock exceeded 2,547,271 m<sup>2</sup>. (source: JLL) Since 1998, supply of new offices has consistently exceeded the demand, leading to consider-

able overcapacity in the Budapest office market. This overcapacity has resulted falling rental costs both in Budapest and elsewhere in the country. Average monthly office rental prices 2008 were € 12-14 per m<sup>2</sup>, in 2010 25-30% less. These figures are likely to remain stable is on average € 3.5 per m due to the oversupply and balanced expectation of demands.

#### Retail premises

Privatization process after 1990 resulted the shift of the ownership of national chains and smaller outlets, previously owned by the state, into domestic and foreign hands. In 1995, a spectacular construction wave of shopping malls, shopping centres and hypermarkets began, first in the Budapest, and later spreading to the local centres all over the country. By the end of 2008 70 shopping malls (33 in Budapest and 37 elsewhere and several more under construction, mainly outside the capital city) and 121 hypermarkets cover approximately 21% of the total Hungarian retail market. There is a clear tendency of the shift of market share to large shopping malls and hypermarkets from less favourably located smaller outlets and chains. Hungary currently has around 2.35 million m<sup>2</sup> of shopping mall capacity, of which 1.5 million m<sup>2</sup> is located in and around Budapest

#### Manufacturing and warehouse property

The development of industrial and warehouse properties took place mostly as green field investments, introducing new industrial culture and the up-to-date technologies in Hungary. Most of these developments are due to multinational companies' choice of Hungary as their logistics centre for Central and Eastern Europe because of the favourable geographical location. The extensive road and railway network, as well as the River Danube, facilitate for freight carriers to reach the major harbours of the Black Sea, the Adriatic Sea and markets of the northern, western and south-eastern European countries quickly and easily. The Hungarian industrial property market continues to remain focused on the Greater Budapest area (30 km radius around Central Budapest). By the end of 2008, the total amount of modern industrial space amounted to 1,409,000 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 266,000 m<sup>2</sup> is newly developed, and additional 200,000 m<sup>2</sup> are planned to be developed in 2009 (source DTZ).

#### Agriculture

In Hungary the agriculture has a major role in the national economy as 85% of the country is suitable for farming. Fertile soils, availability of water and a favourable climate are the main potentials of flourishing agriculture. Hungary has the highest amount of water flowing per inhabitant.

The land prices are about 30-40% of the West-European average and are at level of € 2,500-3,500 per hectare. The regulations have excluded the legal (even local) entities and foreign investors from the market up until the end of 2011, resulting depressed prices. So price change highly depends on regulation and may increase by 50-100% if legislation changes. This higher price would still remain much lower than the ones in neighbouring Austria and Germany (€ 6,000-16,000). Until the price increase, leasing of land can provide a comfortable, predictable cash flow for financial investors. At the moment only Hungarian citizens are allowed to buy land up to 300 hectares. A foreign citizen living in Hungary at least for three years and involved in farming activity has the same right to land ownership as the Hungarian citizens.

## Land registration system

Hungary has a land registration system. Buyers of registered property are assured titled subjects to registered encumbrances and legal restrictions. The land registry contains all relevant data of every real estates in Hungary. The registration of a right is a constitutive act, which means that the registration constitutes the right of the entitled person. The constitutive feature of the land registry helps to keep the registry up-to-date as it makes the entitled person interested in the registration. The registration is based on a contract, final judgement of a court, or final administrative decree of an authority.

## Stock exchange

The Budapest Stock Exchange Ltd. (BSE), as the key institution of the domestic financial market aims to ensure a transparent and liquid market for its listed securities issued either in Hungary or abroad. The four main activities of the stock exchange are: listing services; trading services; dissemination of market information; product development. The Hungarian Stock Exchange, started its operation in 1864. Following World War II, after the nationalisation, when it was dissolved, reestablishment took place in 1990. Since January 2010, the BSE is a subsidiary of the CEESEG AG holding company. The Budapest Stock Exchange participates actively in affairs of public interest and provides support to several communities and initiatives, especially educational and healthcare programmes.

## Preferences of national investment policy

The Hungarian Government promotes and if possible subsidizes the investments which are in accordance with the long term Hungarian economic interests and comply with the national social and environmental regulations as well as the EU cohesion policy. The following developments are given preference:

- Green investments - production of renewable energy –energy security
- Waste treatment – recovery – recycling
- Environmental protection
- Tourism – health tourism –rural and eco tourism
- Environmentally sound new industries (preferably on brown-field sites and in existing industrial parks)
- Investment in agriculture
- Investment in transport infrastructure (railway system, navigation)

### *2.2.2 GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS*

#### Hungarian Labor Code

Hungarian labor law is regulated by Act No. 22 of 4 May 1992 on the Labor Code (in force since 1 July 1992, and as amended by 2006). In addition, art. 70(B) of the Hungarian Constitution guarantees the right to work and free choice of work and occupation.

Since 1992, the Labor Code had over fifty amendments. From 2010 a comprehensive review of the Labor Code began and a the draft of a new Labor Code was issued for consultation in

2011, including a revision of strike-related regulations, reform of public sector wages, and greater decentralization of enforcement.

#### Employment regulations for foreign nationals

The number of foreigners, working in Hungary, is continuously rising, it is currently 43, 000. According to the Government Decree 355/2007 on Employment of nationals of the EU/ELEA and the Ministerial Decree 12/2010 on Employment of nationals of all other nationalities Nationals of the EU/ELEA Member States and Switzerland can work without restriction in Hungary. Employers only have to report on the beginning and the termination of the employment of the foreign worker at the local labor office.

For all other nationalities, a work permit must be acquired.

#### Labor Inspectorate

The Hungarian Labor Inspectorate is a central agency under the control of the minister of employment. - Its legal status, duties and competence (labor and employment conditions, security, and health requirements) are defined by the Government Decree No 295/2006 (XII.23).

#### Competition rules

The Hungarian Competition Authority (Gazdasági Versenyhivatal – GVH); was established by Act LXXXVI of 1990 on the prohibition of unfair market practices, and started its operation on 1 January 1991. The enactment of the prohibition of anticompetitive behavior and the setting up of the authority was motivated by the will of protecting the freedom and fairness of competition.

The Competition Act, which is currently in force, is Act LVII of 1996 on the prohibition of unfair and restrictive market practices. The Act entered into force on 1 January 1997. Besides the provisions on competition, the Act determines the legal status of the Authority and regulates its basic structure and operation, further, the procedures, which it conducts. By Hungary's accession to the European Union, the GVH became a member of the European Competition Network that consists of the national competition authorities of the EU Member States and the DG Competition of the European Commission. As from the same time, the GVH is required to apply EC competition law under certain conditions.

The activities of the GVH in connection with the safeguarding of competition rest on the following three pillars:

- 1) Competition supervision proceedings - the enforcement of the national and the Community competition law;
- 2) Competition advocacy - the GVH tries to influence state decisions;
- 3) Competition culture - the objective of the GVH is to contribute to the development of competition culture by the dissemination of knowledge about competition policy, in order to raise public awareness of competition issues, and by the promotion of the development of competition-related legal and economic activities of public interest.

Beyond the safeguarding of competition, the GVH fulfils other law enforcement tasks provided by other legal acts such as the Trade Act.

## Environmental control

In accordance with Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Management all investments are obliged to undergo environmental impact assessment in Hungary. The relevant rules and responsibilities are specified in legislation.

The ISO 14000 and EMS systems are widely used in Hungary. The [environmental management](#) standards are aimed to help organizations:

- (a) To minimize the negative impacts of their operations (processes, etc.) on the environment (that is, to prevent adverse changes in air, water, land, ecological systems);
- (b) To comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmental requirements,
- (c) To improve continuously all environment related operations.

The ISO 14000 family addresses various aspects of environmental management. The first two standards, [ISO 14001:2004](#) and [ISO 14004:2004](#) are about environmental management systems (EMS).

ISO 14001:2004 provides the requirements for an EMS and ISO 14004:2004 gives general EMS guidelines. The other standards and guidelines in the family address specific environmental aspects and operations including labeling, performance evaluation, life cycle analysis, communication and auditing.

## 2.3 CROATIA

### 2.3.1 INTRODUCTION - INVESTMENT TRENDS

Foreign direct investments are specific external sources of financing, effects of which are measured at international level. According to data from World Investment Report 2010<sup>1</sup>, FDI recorded significant fall at the global level for the period 2009/2008, due to global economic and financial crisis. Foreign direct investment at global level fell by 37% in 2009, from \$1.771 to 1.114 billion. Potential investors expect stronger recovery in 2011/ 2012. Being interested in FDI as an important external source of financing development, all countries proceeded with liberalization and promotion of FDI and introduction of new regulatory policies with the aim of strengthening the role of FDI in stimulation of economic growth and employment.

Economic and financial crisis has had a negative impact on trends in FDI programmes and investment at international level in all countries, according to UNCTAD classification: developed countries, developing countries and transition countries<sup>2</sup>. The lowest decrease was recorded in the category of transition countries, including the Republic of Croatia<sup>3</sup>.

According to UNCTAD's estimate, global trend of FDI growth is expected in the following period in developing countries and transition countries, as in 2009 they accounted for almost 50% of all FDI worldwide. Taking investment into sectors as a starting point (primary, processing industry and service sector), the greatest decrease at the global level was recorded in the processing sector. Unlike the other two sectors, no fast recovery is expected. Although it had a significant impact on FDI, it can be expected that global crisis will not stop the internationalization process. Therefore, it is expected that global crisis will not stop the internationalization process. In 2012 it is expected that FDI will reach \$1,6-2 billion<sup>4</sup> and that in medium term FDI will have better prospects for growth in the primary and service sector. Companies/investors in the service sector are less sensitive to business cycles and have not been affected by crisis to such an extent. Global initiatives, such as investments into agriculture, reforms of the global financial system and climate changes, have growing impact on investment policies.

Global crisis has definitely influenced the character of FDI, both short and long-term: it can be expected that the share of global FDI in developing and transition countries will continue to grow, both in terms of destination and source; developing and transition countries, that absorbed almost 50% of FDI in 2009, will be the fastest to recover; despite serious impact on FDI reduction, the crisis will not stop growing internationalization of production.

#### Investment policy

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1 UNCTAD

2 Countries of South-Eastern Europe and members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): Russia, Romania, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania and Moldova

3 Source: World Investment Report 2010; UNCTAD

4 Source: World Investment Prospects Survey 2010-2012; UNCTAD

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the Republic of Croatia in the period 1993-2010 amounted to €24.228,30 million<sup>5</sup>. Of the total foreign direct investment in Croatia, as much as 65% of investments, amounting to €15.727, were made in the period 2006-2009 due to company acquisitions in the primary and service sectors (pharmaceutical industry, banking sector, food industry). At that time, Croatia was in the group of countries with high investment potential<sup>6</sup>. About 73% of foreign direct investment in Croatia came from EU countries: Austria (25%), the Netherlands (15%), Germany (13%), Hungary (9%), Luxembourg (6%) and France (6%). Most foreign direct investment in Croatia in the period 1993-2010 was realized in the service sector; about 62<sup>7</sup>%. Dominant sector is the banking sector, which accounts for about 35% in the service sector, and about 17% in primary sector<sup>8</sup>. Investment in tourism sector<sup>9</sup> accounted for about 3% or € 655 mil. for the entire period.

Although it is obvious that economic and financial crisis combined with the process of running out of opportunities for more significant privatizations in the countries of South Eastern Europe could lead to fall of FDI in that region, it is estimated<sup>10</sup> that this region has better prospects in medium term.

According to World Bank and its Doing Business Report, when comparing direct investment trends in the world to ranking of the world economies, positive correlation can be observed between the achieved level of FDI and reforms of business and investment environment. Reforms implemented in Croatia resulted from EU accession process, which has led to opening of the market, accelerated privatization of state-owned companies and adoption of measures aiming to increase efficiency of judiciary and fights against corruption.

According to World Bank, Doing Business Report 2011<sup>11</sup>, Croatia ranks 83rd out of 183 analyzed national economies worldwide. It has gone up the ladder by 5 positions, from 89th to 84th position. Out of nine areas analyzed by WB in the process of assessing entrepreneurial environment<sup>12</sup>, the greatest progress made by Croatia was in the field of starting business, moving up by 44 positions, from 100th to 56th position, within just a year. Significant progress was also made in the field of construction permits. Croatia went up by 13 places, from 145th to 132nd position. Other areas relevant for business environment recorded a slight fall on the ladder, although Croatia in some segments of business environment/climate is highly ranked. For example, in the field of taxes Croatia ranks 42nd, in enforcing contracts 47th and 65th in getting credit.

Stimulating legislation, transparency of procedures, safety and predictability are the key elements to increase foreign investments. In that sense, it is estimated that the growth trend of for-

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5 Croatian National Bank

6 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations; Administration for International Economic Cooperation; Department for Business Research and Analytics

7 Financial mediation; real estate; wholesale trade; telecommunications; retail trade

8 Manufacture of coke and petroleum products; extracting oil and natural gas; production of chemicals and chemical products; production of other non-metallic products; Source: Croatian National Bank

9 According to National Classification of Activities, tourism sector is defined as "Hotels and restaurants"; Source: Croatian National Bank

10 World Investment Report 2009; UNCTAD

11 <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/croatia#protecting-investors>

12 1. Starting a Business, 2. Dealing with Construction Permits, 3. Registering Property, 4. Getting Credit, 5. Protecting Investors, 6. Paying Taxes, 7. Trading Across Borders, 8. Enforcing Contracts and 9. Closing a Business.

foreign investment in the world will be focused on countries implementing reforms of their business environment. Croatia is one of such countries.

Policy for attracting foreign investment is operationally implemented at all institutional levels: national, regional and local. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations promote foreign direct investment at the national level through economic diplomacy, by the Ministry of Economy through Administration for Economic Diplomacy, Export and Investment, and by the Croatian Chamber of Economy. At regional and local level there are operative bodies, agencies, and administrative departments that are actively involved in attracting foreign investors, providing information and other services aimed at attracting investors to a particular region.

### Investment in the Tourism Sector

During the last five years, investment in new long-term assets in the tourism sector in the Republic of Croatia<sup>13</sup> recorded growth, both in absolute and relative amounts in relation to total investment.

In the period 2005-2009 total investment in the tourism sector at national level amounted to HRK 18.2 billion (around € 2.4 billion<sup>14</sup>), which is 5.75% of total investment in long-term assets for all business sectors. In the observed period most investments in the tourism sector were made in 2007, about HRK 4.5 billion, or 6.64% of total investment. Investments in 2008 and 2009 decreased; however, they did not fall below 5%.

In Pannonian Croatia<sup>15</sup>, a NUTS 2 region, the amount of HRK 635.8 mil., which is about € 84.8 mil., was invested in the tourism sector during the observed period 2005-2009, which is 1.25% of total new investment in all sectors, amounting to HRK 51 billion (€ 6.8 billion). In terms of the investment share in the tourism sector in relation to total investment, its share varies from 0.41% in 2005 to 3.34% in 2007.

During the observed period from 2005-2009, about HRK 584.4 mil. (about € 77.9 mil.), which is 92% of total investment, was invested in the tourism sector in the NUTS 2 region, Pannonian Croatia (in the Croatian Danube Region - Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem County). The lowest investment level was recorded in 2009, amounting to HRK 12.9 mil. (€ 1.7 mil.), and the highest level was recorded in 2007, amounting to HRK 355.7 mil. (about € 47.4 mil.).

As a development sector in this part of Croatia, the tourism sector in the counties situated in the Croatian Danube Region is perceived as a stimulating sector for investment in the context of the continental part of the country.

### Major investment in the Croatian Danube Region

Here are some successful companies owned by foreign and domestic investors in Osijek-Baranja County and Vukovar-Srijem County, as an evidence of encouraging investment climate in this part of the country. Most of them were realized as greenfield investments.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.dzs.hr/>

<sup>14</sup> Calculation is based on the average exchange rate HRK 7.5 HRK = € 1

<sup>15</sup> Includes 8 continental counties: Bjelovar-Bilogora, Virovitica-Podravina, Požega-Slavonija, Brod-Posavina, Osijek-Baranja, Vukovar-Srijem, Karlovac, and Sisak-Moslavina County.

Portanova<sup>16</sup> is the largest shopping centre in the area among Zagreb, Belgrade, Budapest and Sarajevo. It was opened on March 24, 2011, on total area of 80 000 m<sup>2</sup>. A domestic investor owns it.

Avenue Mall<sup>17</sup> is a shopping centre opened in the spring of 2011, owned by Global Trade Centre, a multinational company.

ADRIATICA DANUBE<sup>18</sup> d.o.o. is a new plant producing chemical fertilizers in Vukovar, opened in 2010. An Italian company owns it. This greenfield investment is worth about € 18 mil. Production is intended for export and the plant operates in accordance with the latest environmental standards.

TERMINAL VUKOVAR<sup>19</sup> d.o.o., owned by corporation LUKOIL HRVATSKA, is located in Vukovar. It is one of the most modern fuel terminals on the Danube in Europe, and one of the most modern ones in Croatia.

Benetton Croatia<sup>20</sup> d.o.o. is a part of [Benetton Group](#) from Italy. It was founded in 2000 and since then it has been known as one of the largest exporters in Osijek-Baranja County.

MEGGLE Hrvatska d.o.o.<sup>21</sup> is the third largest dairy plant in Croatia, with recognized tradition of producing high-quality products from best-quality milk from Slavonia. It has been present in this part of the country since 1999.

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16 <http://www.portanova.hr/o-nama/>

17 <http://www.avenuemallosijek.hr/hr/Home/8/Home.aspx>

18 <http://www.poslovna.hr/lite/subjekti.aspx?show=1059593&&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

19 [http://www.lukoil.hr/component/option.com\\_frontpage/Itemid,27/](http://www.lukoil.hr/component/option.com_frontpage/Itemid,27/); <http://www.lukoil.hr/content/view/15/31/>

20 [http://www.szo.hr/korisnici\\_z.html](http://www.szo.hr/korisnici_z.html)

21 <http://www.meggle-hrvatska.hr/tvrtka.html>



formation on the sector and other relevant contacts related to realization of investment projects. Other levels are also important, depending on the source of information and investors' interests.

Here are the most important institutions for contact with potential investors:

Regional level:

- Osijek-Baranja County – Development Agency (<http://www.obz.hr/hr/index.php?tekst=58>; <http://www.obz.hr/hr/index.php?tekst=1016>; <http://www.obz-invest.hr>)
- Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja (<http://www.slavonija.hr/>)
- Vukovar-Srijem County (<http://www.vukovarsko-srijemska-zupanija.hr/>)
- Development Agency of Vukovar-Srijem County (<http://www.ar-hrast.hr/>)

National level:

- The Government of the Republic of Croatia; Vice-President of the Croatian Government for investment ([http://vlada.hr/hr/naslovnica/o\\_vladi\\_rh/clanovi\\_vlade/domagoj\\_ivan\\_milosevic](http://vlada.hr/hr/naslovnica/o_vladi_rh/clanovi_vlade/domagoj_ivan_milosevic))
- Ministry of Tourism (<http://www.mint.hr/>)
- Ministry of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship: Administration for Economic Diplomacy, Export and Investment (<http://www.mingorp.hr/default.aspx?id=26>)
- Government Asset Management Agency, AUDIO <sup>25</sup>(<http://www.audio.hr/index.aspx>)
- Croatian Chamber of Economy / county chambers ([http://www.hgk.hr/wps/portal!/ut/p/cmd/cs/ce/7\\_0\\_A/s/7\\_0\\_Q0/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_Q0](http://www.hgk.hr/wps/portal!/ut/p/cmd/cs/ce/7_0_A/s/7_0_Q0/s.7_0_A/7_0_Q0))
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations (<http://www.mvpei.hr/MVP.asp?pcpid=1628>)

Local level:

- Units of local self-government, towns and municipalities of Osijek-Baranja County (<http://www.obz.hr/hr/index.php?tekst=10>)
- Units of local self-government, towns and municipalities Vukovar-Srijem County (<http://www.vukovarsko-srijemska-zupanija.hr/>)

### *ASSESSMENT OF THE TOURISM POTENTIAL OF THE CROATIAN DANUBEREGIONS*

Based on the analysis of the tourism potential of the counties in the Croatian Danube Region, their attraction base and major tourism products and destinations, a synthesis is provided, containing assessment of the major tourism products for each County (primary), tourism products in the development phase (complementary), and opportunities for development with particular investment into the attraction base, tourism infrastructure and suprastructure and promotion (potential).

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25 AUDIO was formed by combining the Croatian Privatization Fund and the Central State Office for Government Asset Management to provide better and more transparent management of the Government assets, including economic operators in majority state ownership

Table 7. Overview of tourism products according to their development level/significance for the counties of the Croatian Danube Region

Tourism Products	Osijek -Baranja	Vukovar –Srijem
Rural tourism		
Bicycling		
Water based tourism		
Trekking and hiking		
Equestrian tourism		
Fishing		
Hunting		
Bird/animal watching		
Ecotourism		
Culture tourism		
Health and wellness		
Wine tourism		
River cruising		
Business tourism		

Legend:

Primary tourist products	
Secondary tourist products (complementary)	
Potential tourism products	

Each product, i.e. mix of products derived from them, has a different market potential. It has been known that fishing, hunting, cycling, horse-riding, eco-tourism of all kinds and tourism based on water sports and so-called river cruising are products for specific market segments (niches), with a growing trend. Cultural, rural, wine, health and wellness tourism have a considerable market potential for further development.

Therefore potentials for development in the context of previous analyses exist. It cannot be expected that there will be some strong acceleration in development. However, with constant effort of all stakeholders it is possible to strengthen this sector in planning, implementation of plans and cooperation with the private sector. There is a range of activities within the public sector. However, private initiative and public-private partnerships would contribute to development of the tourism sector in this area to a great extent, considering that investor, in addition to investment capital, also brings his or her know-how. Therefore, only some of the activities that should be implemented by the public sector will be mentioned here.

First, putting tourism attractions into operation and providing higher income from tourism activities, requires basic infrastructure and interpretation, i.e. basic interpretation content and information on a particular attraction should be available. It is of great importance to ensure accessibility of some facilities (particularly of sacral facilities) or at least specify working hours of a facility. Basic infrastructure includes car park, toilets and basic catering services.

Priority should be given to poorly equipped attractions of international and national importance, for example, Vučedol or Ljelje as an event of UNESCO importance, and to attractions where return on investment can be expected in the shortest possible period. Although priorities should be determined based on a more detailed assessment, including development of so-called pre-feasibility studies, it can be said that largest cultural and historical attractions should be considered here, such as Tvrđja in Osijek, and Vukovar as the centre of so-called “war tourism”.

This context requires combined efforts of government bodies (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Tourism, Croatian Tourist Board), regional and local government and bodies (counties, towns, municipalities, regional and local tourist boards), and other sources of financing (for example, EU funds).

In addition to direct investment and stimulation, administrative bodies have also focused on creating positive environment for private investment, particularly in the field of constructing hotels, restaurants, sports and recreational facilities, centers of health and wellness tourism, facilities in the rural tourism in the vicinity of major attractions, etc. New attractions, like amusement parks, adrenaline parks, and also events, as “soft” projects, can be initiated by investors, whether domestic or foreign ones. In addition to greenfield investments within the private and/or public sector, brownfield investments are also an option.

Framework for investment in the tourism sectorThe existing attraction base represents quite a good potential for further development of tourism products/product portfolio, such as: rural tourism, cycling, hunting and fishing, horse riding tourism, water sports, eco-tourism, bird/animal watching, cultural tourism, health/wellness tourism, wine and business tourism, and so-called river cruising.

Development of new attractions is necessary for further development and strengthening of the attraction base of the Croatian Danube Region.

Investment in the tourism sector in the territory of the Croatian Danube Region can develop in three directions: investments of the public sector, private sector and public-private partnership. All three cases require cooperation between the private and the public sector, both in preservation and strengthening of the existing attraction base, but also in creating new tourism products and promotion of the Croatian Danube Region as a destination. This should be done at not only national level, but also at cross-border and transnational levels. Partner and synergy effects are the foundations of tourism development in the Croatian Danube Region.

It can be expected that city tourism, i.e. combination of the city and business tourism will maintain its great importance. It is based on an extremely rich cultural and historical heritage and rich urban content of some towns, especially in Osijek, the largest town in Slavonia, but also in Đakovo, Vinkovci, Ilok and Vukovar, a unique centre of so-called “war tourism”. To encourage development to the greatest possible extent, it is necessary to continuously enrich not only culture, but amusement and commercial offer even more. This process has already started, especially in Osijek, where two shopping centres were recently built.

This area can thus become more attractive also for river cruising, which provides great opportunities, but is currently underdeveloped. Vukovar area has been already included in the offer, but Osijek and Ilok should be included here, as well as Batina, Aljmaš and Dalj at a lower level.

Among natural attractions, the largest and the most attractive protected areas, Nature Park Kopački rit and Spačva forests, landscape of special importance near Erdut, and Virovi near Otok and Bošnjaci, have the greatest potential. With some investment in tourism, some formally unprotected attractive areas, particularly those along the great rivers (Drava in Osijek and Belišće, Danube in Batina, Aljmaš, Dalj, Vukovar and Ilok, and Sava in Županje) could also become a part of the tourism offer. The lake Borovik and wine growing regions in both counties offer great opportunities. Wine growing regions of Baranja and Srijem (Ilok) have been already established, but Erdut, Đakovo and Feričanci wine growing region can be also further developed.

Development of rural tourism in combination with wine tourism also has good prospects. It is based on rich rural traditional heritage of the entire area and on gastronomy and excellent wines produced mostly in Ilok and Baranja wine growing regions, but also in Erdut, Feričanci and Đakovo wine growing regions. Quality of local swimming places should also improved, particularly in Bizovac which is the only tourism health centre. Due to low quality of service caused by unfavorable investment environment, Croatian tourists use health and recreational facilities in Hungary. Natural medical springs near Babina Greda are fully unutilized.

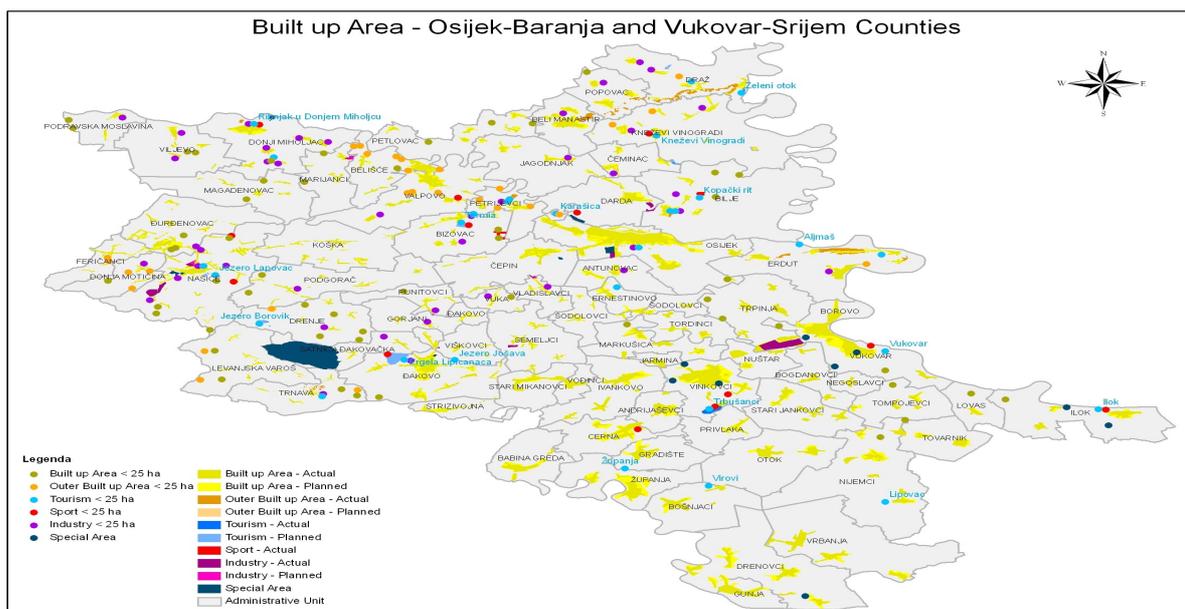
There are also various types of nature-related tourism, such as eco-tourism, bird watching, boat riding, etc. The major attraction here is the Nature Park Kopački rit, with its unique wetland landscape and extremely rich flora and fauna. There are also some other sites, such as Spačva forests, one of the largest preserved wetland areas in Europe, which also include attractive wetlands of Otočki and Bošnjački virovi.

The second group of attractive natural landscapes includes areas along the great rivers Danube, Drava and Sava, including landscape of high importance near Erdut and the mouth of the river Drava in the Danube, with attractive loess slopes and nice belvederes. Areas along the great rivers, and also along the lake Borovik and many other water surfaces, are suitable for development of fishing tourism, which is now mostly oriented to local demand. Similar situation can be also found in hunting tourism, which is underdeveloped, although the area around Kopački rit is widely known as a great hunting ground, particularly for royal stags that can be found there. However, constraints to re-development of this type of tourism in this area is that it is incompatible with eco-tourism and in a less favorable position in relation to some hunting destinations that have developed at the time of Homeland War, when Croatia was absent from the market. It is also important to encourage further development of the existing tourism sites and events that generate higher demand. This includes swimming pools in Bizovac and Osijek ("Copacabana"), Kneževi Vinogradi, Vinkovci and Vukovar, and the largest events such as Pannonian challenge and Osijek Cultural Summer, Đakovački vezovi, Vinkovačke jeseni, Vukovar film festival and Šokačko sijelo in Županja.

As already stated at the beginning of this document, this Guide should only provide guidelines for potential investors to help them define/create a concept, and to obtain relevant information on investment opportunities in the tourism sector of the Croatian Danube Region as part of preliminary research. The chapter on institutional framework recommends bodies/institutions that should be contacted to obtain more detailed information referring to the spatial component (construction zones), property-rights relations and other information that will make it possible to potential investors to refine their investment concepts and undertake further steps that would lead to project realization (feasibility study, market research, etc.)

Draft of the Physical plan of Osijek-Baranja County and Vukovar-Srijem County is provided in Figure 3. Built and non-built tourism areas in construction zones are marked on the map. One should bear in mind that this document provides only framework information for investors, because physical plans are a dynamic category. In case of interest, potential investor should first check the current situation with institutions listed as contact points for each County

Figure 3. Built-up area in Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem County (draft)<sup>26</sup>



Current opportunities on which tourism development has been based so far are the main guidelines and foundations for future development of tourism:

- An area under special protection scheme and other protected areas – potential for development of scientific, educational and environmental programs in tourism;
- Abundance of water, forests and geothermal springs – excursion, recreational, fishing, hunting, health, medical and in-patient care tourism;
- Agricultural area with traditional and other characteristics through connecting tourism and agriculture - framework for the development of rural tourism;
- Making historical and cultural heritage as well as elements of architectural heritage part of the tourism offer (castles, gardens, sacral and other attractions) is an opportunity for creating a new identity of tourism in the counties – events, religious tourism.

Criteria used in evaluation of tourism resources<sup>27</sup> are:

- Quality of the tourism area
- Existing tourism and catering facilities
- Specific facilities
- Traffic accessibility

<sup>26</sup> Source: Spatial plans of Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem County; Processed by GISDATA ZAGREB d.o.o. 2011

<sup>27</sup> Physical plan of Osijek-Baranja County

- Planned content.

In accordance with the above criteria and development plans of the holders of tourism development activities and respecting the current trends, some tourism zones and sites are recommended for future development:

- NP Kopački rit and special zoological reserve: including outskirts settlements in the tourism offer; including the area in the network of international cycling routes; construction of recreational centers; rural tourism combined with historical, cultural, and architectural heritage; residential tourism; horse riding, golf courses, etc.
- Health and medical as well as tourism and recreational centre Bizovačke toplice; thermal water springs in the vicinity of Babina Greda
- Tourism complex Ivandvor, Đakovo – business and recreation zone is envisaged in addition to the existing stud farm
- Sports and recreational centre on the lake Lapovac II – rowing regattas, swimming, fishing, sport activities, tourism and recreational complex of the lake Borovik - development in phases
- Area along the Danube
- Outing and weekend zone, fishing area Zeleni otok, Batina – revitalization of outing and transit hub
- Aljmaš-Erdut-Dalj route – revitalization into a fishing and outing area; wine routes, religious tourism
- Connecting wine growing regions and wine cellars in such regions (Erdut, Baranja, Đakovo, Našice and Ilok)
- Connecting cultural and historical sites and attractions in the counties with attraction in town and municipality centers (Vučedol, Sopot, sites exhibiting so-called Bijelo Brdo culture)
- Encouraging development of rural tourism by means of including rural farms in tourism activities; healthy food production (organic agriculture); encouraging traditional activities in rural areas
- Development of fishing areas on rivers and lakes, etc.

It is estimated that greater effects in tourism development would be achieved by connecting particular attractions in a unique tourism offer of particular areas, considering good traffic connections (Pan-European Corridors Vc, X, VII, Osijek airport) between this part of Croatia and other parts of Europe and the world.

In addition to potential greenfield investments, potential investors might also consider existing companies related to tourism development, such as Iločki podrumi<sup>28</sup>, Erdutski vinogradi<sup>29</sup>, Đakovačka vina<sup>30</sup>, and a large number of private wineries situated on wine routes, and existing catering and accommodation capacities<sup>31</sup>.

Health and medical centre with aqua-park, Bizovačke toplice<sup>32</sup> d.d., is in majority ownership of the state and they can also be a subject of brownfield investment, which would facilitate use of

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28 <http://www.ilocki-podrumi.hr/index.html>

29 <http://www.erdutski-vinotowni.hr/index.php?page=sadrzaj-ovinariji>

30 <http://www.djakovacka-vina.hr/>

31 <http://www.tzosbarzup.hr/>; <http://www.tzvsz.hr/>

32 <http://www.bizovacke-toplice.hr/content/home/>; <http://www.mint.hr/default.aspx?id=362>

its potential. Thermal springs near Babina Greda also present an unutilized resource for development of wellness and health tourism.

In some parts of Osijek-Baranja County, near Našice and Đakovo, on slopes of Dilj Mountain, there is a number of scarcely populated villages that have a potential for development of specific tourism due to their attractive locations and natural beauties.

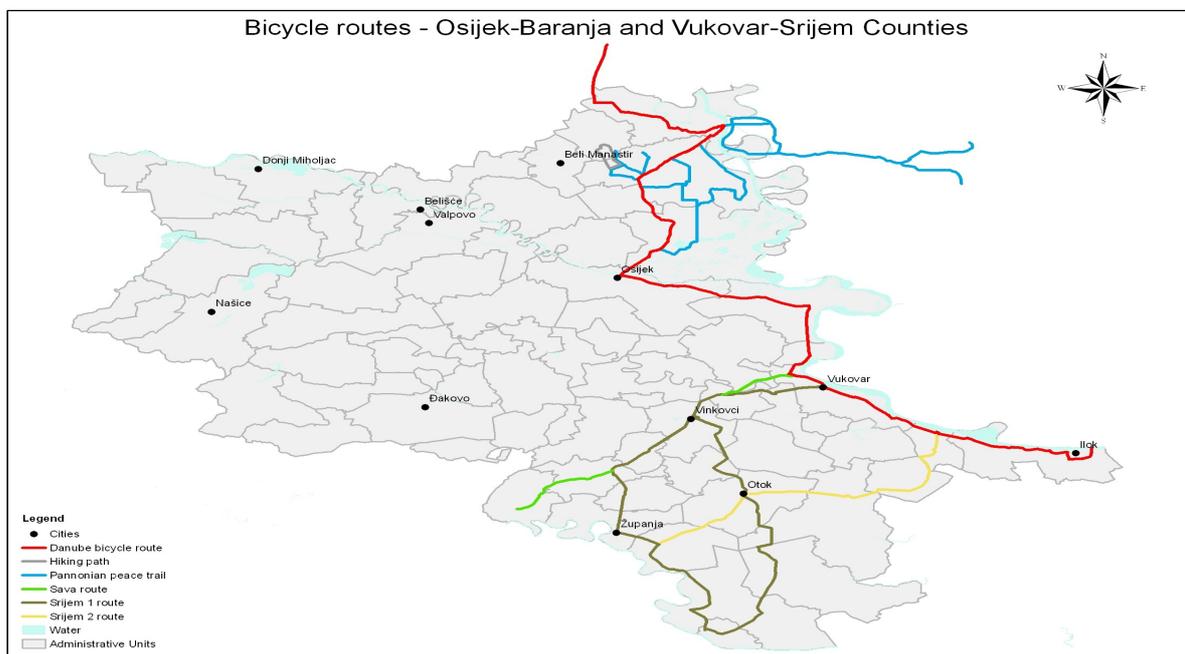
Large number of castles, some of which are in bad condition, could be also included in investments, whether as residential or tourism facilities (the Savojski Castle in Bilje, the Esterhazy Castle in Darda, the castle in Nuštar).<sup>33</sup>

International cycling routes (Figure 4) in this area also offer additional opportunities for investing in additional facilities.

Development of new attractions in this area would strengthen tourism offer largely, where expertise of potential investors in the tourism sector could make significant contribution to tourism development in this area.

The remaining part of this document provides an overview of selected development projects in the tourism sector in the territory of both counties in the Croatian Danube Region. These projects could be realized through investment of private investors and/or through public-private partnerships.

Figure 4. Cycling routes in the territory of the Counties in the Croatian Danube Region<sup>34</sup>



### 2.3.2 GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS

This chapter provides an overview of legal framework relevant for foreign investors, referring to general conditions of doing business, construction, tax system and specific qualities in the catering and tourism sector. As the legal framework of the Republic of Croatia is broad and

<sup>33</sup> [http://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dvorac\\_Esterhazy\\_u\\_Dardi](http://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dvorac_Esterhazy_u_Dardi); for further information please contact municipalities Darda, Bilje and Nuštar

<sup>34</sup> Processed by GISDATA ZAGREB d.o.o., 2011

complex, this chapter provides only an overview of the most important laws and regulations with links to the sources, which can be used by a potential investor as a guide for further research to a narrower field of his or her interest. As it has been already mentioned, this is only a framework providing a general context for doing business. It is recommended to investors to use services of professional institutions to assess feasibility of projects in tourism sector.

This chapter provides links to legislation with links to law texts and, where possible, to consolidated texts for the following areas:

1. General framework for investment promotion
2. General conditions of doing business for economic operators
3. Construction and obtaining construction permits
4. Property-rights relations
5. Tax system - taxes
6. Legal framework for doing business in catering and tourism sector
7. Other relevant legislation and inspectorates

#### General Framework for Investment

- Investment Promotion Act (Official Gazette 138/06) ([http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2006\\_12\\_138\\_3110.html](http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2006_12_138_3110.html));
- Act on Amendments to the Investment Promotion Act (Official Gazette 61/11) ([http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2011\\_06\\_61\\_1359.html](http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2011_06_61_1359.html))
- Companies Act (Consolidated text, Official Gazette 111/93, 34/99, 52/00; Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia 118/03,107/07,146/08 and 137/09); in force as of May 1 2010 (<http://www.propisi.hr/print.php?id=9760>)
- Sole proprietorship Act (Official Gazette 49/03 – consolidated text, 68/07, 79/07) (<http://www.poslovni-savjetnik.com/sites/default/files/ZAKON%20O%20OBRTU.pdf>)
- Civil Obligations Act (Official Gazette 35/05, 41/08) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/75/Zakon-o-obveznim-odnosima>)
- Customs Act (Official Gazette 78/99, 94/99, 117/99, 73/00, 92/01, 47/03,140/05, 138/06,60/08, 45/09)
- Foreign Exchange Act (Official Gazette 96/03, 140/05, 132/06, 150/08; 92/09,133/09) (<http://www.hnb.hr/propisi/zakoni-htm-pdf/h-zakon-o-deviznom-poslovanju-01-2011.pdf>)
- Enforcement Act (Official Gazette 139/10) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/74/Ovršni-zakon>)
- Bankruptcy Act (Official Gazette 44/96, 29/99,129/00,123/03, 82/06,116/10) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/160/Stečajni-zakon>)

#### Building and Obtaining of Construction Permits

- Physical Planning and Building Act (Official Gazette 76/07, 38/09, 55/11) (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/298830.html>)

- Act on Methods and Building Conditions for Stimulation of Investments (Official Gazette 69/09; 128/10) ([http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2009\\_06\\_69\\_1664.html](http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2009_06_69_1664.html));
- Concessions Act (Official Gazette 125/08) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/157/Zakon-o-koncesijama>)
- Law on Property and Other Real Rights (Official Gazette 91/96, 68/98, 137/99, 22/00, 73/00, 129/00, 141/01, 79/06, 141/06, 146/08, 129/00, 38/09, 153/09) – consolidated text (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/241/Zakon-o-vlasni%C5%A1tvu-i-drugim-stvarnim-pravima>)

## Property-Rights Relations

Real Estate Transfer Tax Act (Official Gazette 69/97, 153/02, 22/11; Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia - Official Gazette 26/00) (<http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/?id=b04d1>)

## Labor law

- Labor Act (Official Gazette 149/09, 61/11; consolidated text) ([http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/index\\_open.asp?idPropisa=2202&jid=1&ime=Zakon o radu](http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/index_open.asp?idPropisa=2202&jid=1&ime=Zakon%20o%20radu))
- Aliens Act (Official Gazette 79/07, 36/09) with additional regulations (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/298908.html>)
- Bylaws on approval required in the process of issuing a business permit to aliens (Official Gazette 61/09 based on Aliens Act) ([http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2009\\_05\\_61\\_1403.html](http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2009_05_61_1403.html))

## Taxes

Overview of relevant legislation related to taxes and tax policy in broader sense can be found on the site of Croatian Tax Administration <http://www.porezna-uprava.hr/>. The site is also available in English language and it provides a great number of acts in form of a consolidated text.

A brochure with a title Croatian Tax System can be found at the address [http://www.porezna-uprava.hr/contentData/pdf%20datoteke/brošure/HPS\\_2011\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.porezna-uprava.hr/contentData/pdf%20datoteke/brošure/HPS_2011_ENG.pdf).

It is published both in Croatian and English language.

Here are only the most important acts in the field of tax policy:

- Income Tax Act (Official Gazette 177/04, 73/08, 80/10) (<http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/?id=b04d1>)
- Profit Tax Act (Official Gazette 177/04, 90/05, 57/06, 146/08, 80/10) (<http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/?id=b04d1>)
- VAT Act (Official Gazette 47/95, 106/96, 164/98, 105/99, 54/00, 73/00, 48/04, 82/04, 90/05, 76/07, 87/09, 94/09); Bylaws on VAT Tax (Official Gazette N 149/09) (<http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/?id=b04d1>)
- National Insurance Contributions Act (Official Gazette 84/08, 152/08, 94/09, 18/11) (<http://propisi.porezna-uprava.hr/?id=b04d1>)

## Legal Framework for Doing Business in the Tourism Sector

- Act on the Provision of Tourism Services (Official Gazette 68/07;88/10) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/343/Zakon-o-pruzanju-usluga-u-turizmu>)
- Hospitality and Catering Industry Act (Official Gazette 138/06) ; Sojourn Tax Act, Official Gazette 152/08, Article 34, Paragraph 3) ; (Official Gazette 43/09) ; (Official Gazette 88/10) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/151/Zakon-o-ugostiteljskoj-djelatnosti>)
- Act on Tourist Boards Membership Fees (Official Gazette 152/08); (Official Gazette 88/10)
- Sojourn Tax Act (Official Gazette 152/08); (Official Gazette 59/09)
- Law on building land for tourism and other purposes that was not assessed during transition and privatization process (Official Gazette 92/10)
- Golf Courses Act (Official Gazette 152/08); Amendments to the Golf Courses Act (Official Gazette 80/10)
- Food Act (Official Gazette 46/07, 84/08, 55/11) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/467/Zakon-o-hrani>)
- Sanitary Inspection Act ( (Official Gazette 113/08,88/10) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/344/Zakon-o-sanitarnoj-inspekciji>)
- Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Goods (Official Gazette 69/99, 151/03, 157/03, 100/04) ([http://www.porezi.net/datoteke/ostalo/Doc/Zakon\\_o\\_zastiti\\_i\\_ocuvanju\\_kulturnih\\_dobara.pdf](http://www.porezi.net/datoteke/ostalo/Doc/Zakon_o_zastiti_i_ocuvanju_kulturnih_dobara.pdf)),
- and an array of other implementing regulations (<http://www.mint.hr/default.aspx?id=356>)

#### Other Relevant Legislation and Inspectorates

- Environment Protection Act ( (Official Gazette 117/07) (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/329475.html>)
- Waste Act (Official Gazette 178/04,153/05,111/06,110/07, 60/08, 87/09) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/453/Zakon-o-otpadu>)
- Administrative Disputes Act (Official Gazette 53/91, 9/92, 77/92) (<http://www.zakon.hr/z/101/Zakon-o-upravnim-sporovima>)
- Consumer Protection Act (Official Gazette 79/07,125/07, 79/09, 89/09) (<http://www.-poslovni-savjetnik.com/propisi/propisi-za-management/zakon-o-zastiti-potrosaca>)
- State Inspectorate  
<http://www.inspektorat.hr/>
- Sanitary inspection  
[http://www.mzss.hr/Ministry/ustroj\\_ministarstva/uprava\\_za\\_sanitarnu\\_inspekciju](http://www.mzss.hr/Ministry/ustroj_ministarstva/uprava_za_sanitarnu_inspekciju)

## 2.4 SERBIA

### 2.4.1 INTRODUCTION - INVESTMENT TRENDS

The information in this guide is based on 2010 edition Guidebook to do business and to invest in Serbia that is formed by taxation law, legislative proposals and current practice, up to and including measures passed into law as of the end 2010.

It is intended to provide a general guide only on the subject matter and is necessarily in a condensed form. It should not be regarded as a basis for business setting in specific circumstances. Professional advice should always be taken before acting on any information in the booklet.

With Serbia pushing its development along the Danube, largely through its rural landscapes, it has been implemented a multi-faceted approach to investing in its human capital to raise the standards of service quality as well as facilitating an environment for investment in tourism infrastructure.

Over the past five years of extensive political and economic reforms, Serbia has developed into a stable democratic country with a relatively fast growing market economy. Western-oriented, democratic political parties have a strong majority among citizens and the Government is shaping an attractive environment for business activities, while legislative activities are intensely bringing the legal framework in line with the EU regulations. As a member of the International Monetary Fund, Serbia exercises a consistent economic policy resulting in an economic growth, state budget surplus, and export expansion. The country's progress is fully supported by leading international development institutions, such as the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, while the processes of the European Union and the World Trade Organization accessions are under way.

#### Aims of government policy

The key goals and instruments of the economic policy are:

- Maintaining exchange rate stability and curbing domestic aggregate demand through restrictive monetary policy,
- Further reduction of public spending, freezing public sector wages through tight fiscal policy,
- Price stability,
- Stimulative subventions for the economy

In January 2009, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a package of measures aimed at mitigating the effects of the global economic crisis on the Serbian economy, maintaining the competitiveness of the Serbian economy, preserving jobs and stimulating domestic demand. These measures include directly subsidizing interest rates on liquidity loans, co-financing loans for investments with guarantees from the Guarantee Fund and direct subsidies for interest rates on consumer and housing loans. The policy principles continued to be used in 2010. The Government has also adopted a strategy for the development of Serbian trade, strengthening competition of commercial companies in the local market with the aim of creating a modern market and trading system and accelerating Serbia's accession to the EU.

## General description

Serbia is considered an upper-middle income economy by the World Bank, with a GDP for 2008 estimated at \$78.36 billion (\$10,400 per capita PPP). Since the political reforms of 2000, the country has experienced fast economic growth and has been preparing for membership in the European Union.

## International agreements

- Serbia's application for the WTO accession accepted;
- The Stabilization and Association Agreement and Interim Trade Agreement with the EU was signed in April 2008; membership candidacy request was submitted in December 2009;
- Regional free trade agreement (CEFTA), ratified by Serbia in 2007, integrates the countries of the South East Europe, thus creating a possibility for companies to place their goods customs free to a market of close to 30 million people,
- Serbia is the only European country with free trade agreements with the EU, Russia, Belarus and Turkey,
- The trade with US is pursued under Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP program provides preferential duty-free entry for more than 4,650 products,
- Serbia is a member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

## Investment climate

Since January 2001, Serbia has shown a strong commitment to establishing a modern market economy and re-entering European and global markets. Substantial reforms have been initiated to that end, particularly in creating a business-friendly environment. These include legal and economic reforms in all areas, aimed at ensuring legal security and harmonization with EU legislation and economic policies.

Within this process, foreign investments have been encouraged and restrictions are negligible. The institutions responsible for foreign investment regulations are the following:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development
- The Serbian Investment and Export Promotion Agency
- The Ministry of Trade and Services
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Serbian Chamber of Commerce

The geographical position and the low cost of labor make Serbia a competitive environment for investment. With the development of a Balkan Free Trade Zone, this regional market will exceed 65 million people. In addition to intensifying trade, this integration may also contribute to political stabilization in the region. As a result of both political and economic, regional and international integration of the region into Europe continued dynamic growth is expected over the medium term, which will accelerate the economic catching-up process of South Eastern Europe with the EU member countries. Recording average growth rates of 5 percent and above, the region is the most promising market on the European continent, provided that political stability is maintained, political problems are resolved, economic reforms proceed rapidly, the legal framework improves further, and legal security increases.

Foreign and multinational companies have begun to appear on the Serbian market as of 2002. According to the official data of the National Bank of Serbia, the institution authorized to report on foreign direct investment (FDI), FDI in 2007 amounted to USD 2,195 million.

#### Assessment of the tourism potential of the Serbian Danube section

Based on the analysis of the tourism potential of the districts in the Serbian Danube Section Area, their attraction base and major tourism products and destinations, provided synthesis is containing assessment of the major tourism products for each District (primary), tourism products in the development phase (complementary) and opportunities for development with particular investment into the attraction base, tourism infrastructure and superstructure and promotion (potential).

Table 28. Overview of tourism products according to their development level/significance for the districts in the Serbian Danube section

Tourism products	West Backa	South Backa	Middle Banat	Srem	South Banat	The City of Belgrade	Bor	Podunavlje	Branicevo
M.I.C.E.	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green
Business tourism	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green
Rural tourism	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Blue	Green	Green
Culture tourism	Blue	Red	Blue	Red	Green	Blue	Red	Red	Red
Health and wellness	Blue	Green	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
River cruising	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
Water based tourism	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red
Trekking and hiking	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Ecotourism	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Wine tourism	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green
Tourism of special interests	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	Blue	Green	Blue	Green	Green
Event tourism	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green

Legenda: Primary tourist products  
Secondary tourist products (Complementary)  
Potential tourism products

Cutlets  
Blue  
Green

Each product i.e. mixes of products derived from them, has a different market potential. It is obvious from the table above that Belgrade and South Backa district have great potential for business and M.I.C.E. tourism, while every other district has good potentials for cultural tourism offer, thanks to numerous monuments and cultural goods along the settlements on Serbian part of Danube. It has been known that fishing, hunting, cycling, horse-riding, eco-tourism of all kinds and tourism based on water sports and so-called river cruising are products for specific market segments (niches), with a growing trend, which could be an interesting product for less developed districts in Serbia. Rural, wine, health and wellness tourism have a considerable market potential for further development. Potentials for tourism development in Serbian Danube Section Area exists, but it cannot be expected that there will be some strong acceleration in development, except in big cities and nautical points.

With regard to tourism development in the Serbian Project area it should make the following conclusion that potential for development of the Danube section is not sufficiently used for tourism development. Exceptions are the City of Belgrade and the City of Novi Sad. The reasons are many and diverse, with cross-border, national and regional character. In the Serbian part of the project area a major challenge is the lack of exposure of the cultural, historical and natural potentials, lack of well promote regional tourism products, poor quality of infrastructure and transport and inadequate local capacity to adapt to economic growth through tourism. The transnational and cross border nature of environmental damage are associated with deterioration of water quality, damaged landscape, the lack of a common transnational strategy covering the overall tourism development on the Danube, particularly in its lower part.

#### *EVALUTION OF THE TOURISM POTENTIALS OF THE DISTRICTS IN THE SERBIAN DANUBE SECTION*

Tourism in the Danube region is becoming increasingly popular in all countries on the banks of the Danube. One of the factors that contribute to this growing importance of tourism in the Danube region is common diversity of tourism potentials, including river cruises as an extremely important type of tourist activity for the region. Such development significantly supports all types of tourism and all countries, because it allows important expansion of tourism activities for tourists coming from any of these countries, as well as easier navigation for cruises through the different countries. Raised awareness of the importance of tourism on the Danube in Serbia and the empowerment of the Danube region for tourism purposes, is right the consequence of the above-mentioned process and are expected to be open very good opportunities for the future. The great potential that Serbia and the Serbian Danube region have for tourism development, will contribute to opening new horizons and to the overall improvement of economy, as well as strengthening cross-border cooperation among the countries that lie on the Danube.

In the Serbian part of Danube section, there are 11 large (with surface above 1,000 ha) and 174 small protected areas (with surface below 1,000 ha). The Serbian part of Danube has other natural resources with potential for the development of spa and wellness tourism. Danube area in Serbia could be characterized by developed spa tourism. In analyzing the content, attractive and the market required offer of wellness services, it is necessary to mention that there are 7 spas in this area.

In the territory of the Serbian Danube section are some of the most important archaeological sites of this part of the Balkans. The importance of the Danube as a communication and economic resource has placed, during the course of history in this area numerous villages, fortresses and settlements. Sites are very attractive and interesting tourist destinations, which in addition to architectural and cultural values containing the gastronomic and cultural events. In the table below it could be seen the most important tourism recourses of anthropogenic nature. Very important tourism offer in The Serbian part of Danube section are events, especially in the municipalities in the Vojvodina region, which has both strong traditions and developed channels of supply and implementation

The existing tourism infrastructure is concentrated mainly in several areas with established tourist destinations. The capital Belgrade that is attracting the most tourists' attention has the highest concentration of accommodation establishment, rooms and beds. 53.47% of total number of beds in Project area is settled in the City of Belgrade. Other municipalities and their central cities, which attract tourist attention such as Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Vršac, Bela Crkva, Kladovo, etc., have high concentration of tourist accommodation facilities and high number of bed places in them. 69.49% of Juznbacki district accommodation facilities are settled in the City of Novi Sad, which shows that Novi Sad is important tourism destination in district, and in Vojvodina region.

Tourism infrastructure is most developed in Belgrade, Novi Sad and its surrounding, as well as spa and climatic resort and lakes. It should be noted that in Junakovic Spa near Apatin, is planned construction of a large water park, which will be of interest to tourists, and which will extend the offer and increase accommodation capacity. There are a number of municipalities bordering the Danube, which have an underdeveloped tourist infrastructure and great tourist potential. This situation is in municipalities Bački Petrovac and Sremski Karlovci, which have fewer than 50 beds and a huge tourism potential.

Auxiliary tourism infrastructure representing the following tourist objects and attractions: Eco trails on Fruška gora mountain, Farms "salaši" and village housekeeping's, Vineyards and wine cellars, cycling tracks EUROVELO 6 and Facilities for Sport and Recreation.

#### *2.4.2 GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS*

##### Regulatory legislation

The legal framework relevant for foreign investment encompasses the following acts:

- Law on Foreign Investment (enacted in January 2002, amended in January 2003)
- Law on Free Zones (enacted in 2006)
- Law on Foreign Exchange Transactions (new law enacted in July 2006)
- Law on Foreign Trade Transactions (enacted in May 2009)
- Customs Law (enacted in 2003, amended in 2005 and 2006)

Set of privatization laws:

- Privatization Law, (enacted in 2001, amended in 2003, 2005 and 2007)
- Law on the Agency for Privatization (enacted in 2001, amended in 2004)
- Share Fund Law (enacted in 2001, amended in 2005)
- Company Law (enacted in 2004)
- Law on Securities and other Financial Instruments Market (enacted in June 2006)

- Law on Takeover of Joint Stock Companies (enacted in June 2006)
- Law on Registration of Commercial Entities (enacted in 2004, amended in 2005)
- Law on Concessions (enacted in 2003)
- Insurance Law (enacted in 2004, amended in 2005)
- Bankruptcy Law (enacted in 2004, amended in 2005)
- Law on Games of Chance (enacted in 2004, amended in 2005)
- Energy Law (enacted in 2004)

#### Foreign Investment Law

The Law on Foreign Investment (LFI) regulates foreign investments in Serbia. The fundamental aim of the Serbian Government is to create a business-friendly legal, economic and political environment for all foreign individuals and companies interested in doing business in Serbia, by equalizing the rights and responsibilities of domestic and foreign investors, and providing other necessary conditions. A long-term goal is also to create a legal system compatible with European Union legislation as a first step towards future integration.

The LFI regulates foreign investment in enterprises and other norms of establishment engaged in profit generating activities in Serbia.

According to the LFI, a foreign investment may be made either by founding a new company or by increasing the capital of existing domestic companies through the acquisition of stocks or shares in the initial capital of that company and/or acquiring any other property rights in a company.

A foreign investor is guaranteed national treatment, which means that any legal entity and natural persons who are investing in Serbia enjoy full legal security and protection, equal to those of domestic companies.

The LFI guarantees legal security to the foreign investor. Consequently, if a change is made to the law under which an agreement was concluded after the investment agreement is registered, the provisions of the agreement, articles of association and the law in force on the date of the registration of that agreement shall apply to the relations regulated by it. It is important to emphasize that a stake held by a foreign investor or a company with a foreign investment cannot be the subject of expropriation, except when so required by the public interest as established and determined by the law. Moreover, in case of expropriation, the foreign investor or the company with foreign investment is entitled to compensation not lower than its market price. The provisions relating to expropriation are new to the Serbian legal system and bring together issues related to foreign investment, with provisions of bilateral contracts on the encouragement and protection of foreign investment.

#### Parameters of foreign investment

Within the scope of Company Law and the Foreign Investment Law, a foreign investor is authorized to:

- Manage or take a part in managing the company he has founded or in which he has invested his capital, proportionally to his capital contribution and in accordance with the Company Law,
- Transfer the rights and obligations, which are incorporated in the investment contract or founding act, to the other foreign or domestic legal entities or persons,

- Inspect the company books and supervise the business activities of the company in which he has invested,
- Found and invest funds in an insurance joint stock company,
- Audit the interim and annual financial statements either personally or by engagement of an authorized representative.

The contribution of a foreign investor may be in the form of foreign currency, contribution in kind, intellectual property rights and securities. The contribution can also be in local currency but only if these funds, in accordance with the foreign exchange operations regulations, may be transferred abroad, including remittance of any profit. Although not explicitly regulated by the LFI, the services of foreign investors can also be invested due to an explicit provision of the Company Law allowing that to all entities. A foreign investor may also convert confirmed receivables into capital i.e. shares in a company.

Repatriation of capital and earnings If the prescribed tax requirements and other outstanding commitments have been settled in Serbia, the foreign investor may, without any further limitation or delay, transfer financial assets relating to the foreign investment such as:

- Profit that was realized through the business activities of the company,
- Remaining property of the company, after dissolution of the company,
- Money assets relating to purchase of stocks and shares,
- Money assets after decreasing the initial capital of the company with foreign investments,
- Compensation in the case of expropriation of the company property, as well as any indemnity.

Equipment representing the foreign investor's stake is unrestricted, subject only to environmental protection regulations. Imported equipment is exempt from customs duties and other import charges, except for motor vehicles and gambling machines.

#### Foreign investors' rights and protection

The legal security of investments is guaranteed. No entity can be deprived of property nor can the property be limited, except in the case of invocation of a vital and indisputable public interest, in full respect of the procedure in which the existence of such interest is determined, and followed by the immediate payment of compensation, in the amount of the market value of the property before expropriation. In the event of any change in the law under which the founding or investment contract is approved and registered, the investor has the right to maintain the relations regulated in the contract according to the statute and law that were in force when the investment was made, if he considers these more favorable.

A foreign investor has the right to make payments under international business arrangements and to maintain accounts in accordance with international accounting standards. If a bilateral or international treaty provides for conditions more beneficial for a foreign investor, its implementation has primacy over the provisions of relevant domestic legislation. The equipment which represents an investment may be imported free of customs and other import duties.

#### Restrictions

Foreign entities are not permitted to own a majority interest in companies or enterprises engaged in the production or sale of armaments or located in special geographical zones (e.g.

border zones, national parks). These kinds of foreign investments are subject to approval from the competent ministry.

Meeting environmental protection standards and regulations is compulsory. Investments regulated separately by specific laws include:

- Banks
- Insurance companies
- Stock exchanges
- Stock broking companies
- Free trade zone managing companies
- Broadcasting companies

## Transport

In Serbia all means of transportation are present. The total length of roads is 40.845 km. Railway network enables cost effective transportation thanks to good communication with all major European destinations through the Pan European Corridor 10. There are 3 major airports in Serbia: Belgrade Nikola Tesla

Airport, Nis Airport and the Vrsac international airport. Serbian rivers belong to the basins of the Black, Adriatic and Aegean Seas. Three of them, the Danube, Sava and Tisa, are navigable. The longest river is the Danube, which flows for 588 of its 2,857 kilometre course through Serbia. Serbia does not have access to sea.

## Land ownership Law on Planning and Construction

The New Law on Planning and Construction was enacted in September 2009 replacing the old Law on Planning and Construction, adopted in May 2003 and amended during 2006. The Law introduced several positive amendments aimed at improving disadvantages of the old law that have been noted in practice and harmonization with EU legislation and the Constitution of Republic of Serbia relating to the:

- Privatization of the state-owned construction land
- Issuance of construction permit
- Zoning and spatial planning
- Legalization
- The Law introduces different categories of construction land, namely: Consequently, for instance, if a user of state-owned construction land fails to construct a building within a prescribed period of time, his right of use may cease.
- City Construction Land and
- Construction Land outside the Construction Area.

In line with the Constitution of Republic of Serbia, the Construction Law allows for private ownership over any type of construction land and for further transfer of ownership rights. The provisions are aimed at replacing the right of use, which was commonly used during previous periods when city construction land was state owned, and when owners of buildings were entitled to the right of use over the land beneath them. The Law provides for automatic conversion of the right of use on state-owned developed construction land into ownership at no fee, subject to numerous exceptions. The main exception is related to the right of use on state-owned developed construction land currently or formerly held by companies that were subject to privatization, bankruptcy or enforcement laws which can be converted into ownership sub-

ject to the payment of a fee equal to the difference between the market value of the land at the conversion date and the amount paid for the acquisition of the right of use on such land. The criteria for determining the conversion fee are expected to be defined in the implementing by-laws.

## Construction permit

A building is lawfully constructed if a construction permit has been issued. The permit is issued on the basis of a location permit and technical documentation - main design. One of the main features of the new Law is the possibility of a construction permit transfer together with a transfer of property rights over building/land. Municipalities are authorized to issue construction permits. The competent Ministry is in charge of issuing construction permits for the construction of nuclear plants, oil and gas production/processing industry objects, hydro-power stations, airports, traffic infrastructure and similar. Upon construction, the investor will apply for a utilization permit.

New legislation on denationalization should be enacted. The Law on Denationalization, crucial to resolving issues of land ownership and restitution, is still pending. Under the Law on the Application for Restitution of Deprived Property, approximately 500.000 restitution claims have been submitted to the Serbian Government.

## 2.5 ROMANIA

### 2.5.1 INTRODUCTION - INVESTMENT TRENDS

#### General information

Romania is located in Southeastern Europe and borders Hungary, Serbia, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine and has an area of 91,725 square miles. Its short eastern coast lies along the Black Sea, upon which also lie coasts of Russia and Turkey. Romania has a population of 21.7 million people, about 55 percent of which lives in towns and cities, according to the Romanian Tourist Office website<sup>35</sup>. Approximately 2.6 million people live in Bucharest.

Taking upon Romania means investors gaining access at the same time to the EU internal market and Romania's significant domestic market opportunities. Our country is strategically positioned at the crossroads of the traditional, commercial and energy routes connecting EU-27, Asia and the Balkans.

Romania has the biggest internal market in South-Eastern Europe, the second largest in Central and South - Eastern Europe, ranking 7th in the EU, with a population of 21.6 million inhabitants<sup>36</sup>.

Foreign direct investments reached EUR 3.4 billion in Romania last year, according to data from the Romanian Central Bank (BNR), taking the entire stock of FDI to the country to almost EUR 50 billion. Regarding the level of the corporate tax Romania has a 16% flat tax, one of the lowest levels employed by countries in CEE. Romania has a 24% VAT standard rate and a 9% reduced rate applicable to the supplies of certain goods/services as provided by the Romanian Fiscal Code. For 2010, the average gross wage per month in Romania is 1836 RON (approx. EUR 442), as according to Law No. 12/2010 regarding the state social insurance budget. Romania continues to be the first FDI recipient in South Eastern Europe, receiving high rates of FDI, as revealed by national banks reported figures. In a recent report of Merrill Lynch, Romania is seen in the next years as the most attractive country for foreign investors among European emerging states, Middle East and Africa, due to an average 4.4% economic growth in 2010-2019 and competitive production costs.<sup>37</sup>

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
FDI <sup>38</sup> (EUR mil)	1147	1294	1212	1946	5183	5213	9059	7250	9084	4556

The sector attracting highest rates of FDI is industry, due to lower level of land price against other countries within the region, skilled labor force at competitive prices, as well as availability of the production capacities and tradition within the sector. The current economy statement in Romania is steadily increasing the levels of GDP and significantly high levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The economy investment grade has recently been upgraded by Fitch and P&S. Romania benefits from the rising FDI flows due to the privatization process, and the advantages of its large internal market.

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.romaniatourism.com/>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.romania-insider.com/foreign-investments-to-romania-go-to-manufacturing-financial-real-estate-and-retail-sectors/14006/>

<sup>37</sup> Source: National Bank of Romania

<sup>38</sup> Foreign Direct Investment

Romania is also having a great geographical location at the intersection of some great trade routes joining the Far East with the Western Europe. With population of more than 20 million people, Romania has a massive domestic market. After having such great property investment opportunities, Romania is continuously attracting more and more foreign investors to invest in Romania. Stable and encouraging government of Romania is the other reason that is creating great investment opportunities in Romania.

Tourist areas around the 150-mile Black Sea coast offer abundant opportunities. The Transylvanian countryside is an alternative option for people who are looking to buy ramshackle properties for cheap prices and transform them into real estate gems. If the tourism market increases as planned, such properties could be used as vacation rentals or even bed and breakfasts.

Bucharest is another possible investment market because is gobbling up a good portion of the foreign direct investment that is pouring into the country. It has two international airports and public transportation infrastructure that includes buses and trains. Demand for quality housing is increasing in tandem with the rising income of the city's residents. On the flip side, the income gap between the rich and the poor has continued to grow since the country opened up its economy.

The tourism sector, which is of particular interest to property investors, is growing steadily, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). Out of 176 countries, WTTC ranks Romania's tourism industry sixth in long-term growth potential, 58th in absolute size. The travel and tourism industry generates some 600,000 jobs today. Eighty-five percent of the 220,000 square meters leased in Bucharest last year were pre-leases, according to a 2008 real estate market overview report by CB Richard Ellis (CBRE). This is because there is a soaring demand for modern office buildings that is not yet met by what is already available both in quality and in numbers.

Romania – famous for its beautiful palaces and castles, wonderful liquors and food, Dracula, dazzling women is a beautiful country located in central-eastern Europe. It is the 12th largest country in the Europe. The economy of Romania has shown potential growth in the past few years. Since 2000, Romania has shown a rhythmic growth of 4.5% raised by 8.3% in 2004.

The manufacturing industry was one of the main targets, with 31 percent of the investments. Oil, chemical products, plastics, metallurgy, transport industry, food and beverages industries, cement, glass and ceramics were among the target sectors for foreign direct investments. The financial sector attracted 19 percent of the FDI, real estate and constructions, 12.9 percent, retail – 12.3 percent and IT&C, 6.5 percent, according to BNR. Bucharest got more than half of the investments, with the center, south, west and south – east of the country ranging from 5.9 to 7.4 percent of the FDI.

The Netherlands was the main country of origin for foreign investments in Romania last year, with 21.8 percent of the FDI, followed by Austria, Germany, France and Greece. Companies which run based on foreign investments made a 69 percent contribution on exports, while covering 60 percent of imports. The BNR study covered 6,000 companies which run with foreign direct investments.

Foreign direct investments to Romania fell 36 percent to EUR 1.9 billion in the first seven months of this year, from EUR 2.9 billion during the same period of last year, according to data from the Romanian Central Bank.<sup>39</sup>

### 2.5.2 GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS

#### Legal framework regulating the direct investments

In order to boost the business climate in Romania and attract foreign capital to the economy, the Romanian Government set-up new regulations aimed to support investments. In this context, authorities issued the Emergency Government Ordinance 85/2008 on stimulation of investments.

The Emergency Ordinance is the result of the business climate prompt need of regulations to settle a framework for investments, in accordance with both the EU's and the national legislation on state aids. It supports investments in the development of certain economic areas, taking into account Romania's development priorities, thus focusing particularly on those regions that attracted fewer investments in the past, in order to assure a balanced territorial development. It's stipulations set the basic principles as regards granting and application of facilities for investments (such as equal treatment for the investors, transparency of procedures, efficiency in the use of facilities, confidentiality as regards the investors' property rights, and eligibility – depending on the source of the financing funds), the types of facilities to be granted (state aid type), the eligibility conditions for both investment and investor and other general provisions.

Based on these provisions, the responsible authorities initiate laws/administrative norms, which institute support measures in the form of state aid schemes or individual aid for each priority area.

From the moment the new rules came into force, Law 332/2001 on the Promotion of Direct Investments with Major Economic Impact (Investment Law) as further amended and supplemented, has been declared null and void, but for one single article stating that the investments have to last for at least 10 years. In case of voluntary dissolution during this term, the company which benefited from the facilities offered by the Law will be obligated to pay not only the taxes imposed by the legislation for the whole period during which it functioned, but penalties for overdue payments owned in the absence of facilities, as well.

With this piece of regulation, a new Government agency is established instead of the Romanian Agency for Foreign Investment (ARIS). The new Romanian Agency for Investment (ARI) plays the same role of intermediary between investors and central and local authorities. It also offers technical assistance/guidance as regards the available schemes by means of which investors can apply for financing from the responsible authority. ARI is continuously informed by the responsible authority on the new investment projects and will publish on its web site a list of state aid/individual aid schemes, which will be updated permanently.

We have also Foreign Investment Council<sup>40</sup> and Romanian Centre to promote the commerce and foreign investments<sup>41</sup>.

<sup>39</sup><http://www.nuwireinvestor.com/articles/romania-real-estate-a-european-property-frontier-51946.aspx>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.fic.ro/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.traderom.ro/>

The Ordinance 85/2008 speaks only of the Agency's implication in the process of application for the incentives, its structure, statute, attributions and responsibilities being set later on by a Governmental Decision based on a project of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.<sup>42</sup>

#### Employment regulations for foreign nationals

The EU citizens carrying out activities in Romania based on secondment letters or local employment agreements are no longer required to obtain Romanian work authorizations. In addition, the assignors (i.e., foreign company) must give Romanian labor authorities at least five days prior notice regarding the beginning of the individuals' assignment.

Foreign nationals are subject to the Romanian Labor Code if they either:

- Are employed under an employment contract and perform work in Romania for a Romanian employer.
- Have acquired refugee status and are employed under an employment contract in Romania.
- Otherwise, the parties can choose the law that applies to their employment contract (Rome Convention on the law applicable to contractual obligations (1980/934/EEC) ). However, they are still subject to Romanian mandatory laws.

If they do not make an express choice, Romanian law automatically applies to foreign nationals who work in Romania, even if they are temporarily employed in another country.

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<sup>42</sup> <http://rbd.doingbusiness.ro/ro/3/articole-recente/1/64/foreign-direct-investment-in-romania>

## 2.6 BULGARIA

### 2.6.1 INTRODUCTION - INVESTMENT TRENDS

#### Foreign investment regime

Foreign persons may freely choose the form of investment to be performed in Bulgaria. There are no limitations on the share participation of foreign persons in commercial companies. There are no minimum capital investment requirements, nor is prior permission for the investment needed. The investment legislation in Bulgaria consists of two main acts:

Investment Promotion Act (last amended and supplemented by SG No. 100/21.12.2010)

Regulations for Application of the Investment Promotion Act (State Gazette No. 62/10.08.2010, effective as of 10.08.2010).

Foreign investors are entitled to perform economic activity in the country under the same conditions applicable to Bulgarian investors. When international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party stipulate terms that are more favorable and conditions for foreign investment, these terms have precedence over the local rules. Foreign investment, made prior to the adoption of amendments in laws imposing statutory restrictions regarding foreign investments only, shall not be affected by these restrictions.

Foreign investors can freely purchase foreign currency and transfer it abroad upon presentation of receipts for paid taxes in the following instances:

- Income generated through an investment;
- Property alienation driven indemnification proceeds, when for state needs;
- Liquidation quota resulting from termination of the investment;
- Proceeds from sale of investment goods;
- Amount received after the enforcement of a writ of execution.

Foreign individuals and legal entities may acquire land and other immovable property under the terms and conditions arising from the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union or by virtue of ratified, published and effective international agreements.

#### Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bulgaria

Bulgaria is among the fastest growing economies in Europe classified as an "upper-middle-income economy" by the World Bank. The Bulgarian GDP has steadily grown during the 2004-2008 period. In 2009, the country's economy entered into recession caused by the world economic crisis. In result, the real GDP growth rate fell from 6.0 for 2008 to -5.4 for 2009, but remaining around the EU average. The statistical data for 2010 and 2011 indicates positive trends of economic development in the midst of the world financial and economic crisis.

Table 1. GDP at market prices, 2005-2010

GDP	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
EUR million	23,255.8	26,476.7	30,772.4	35,430.5	34,932.8	36,033.5

Source: Euro stat

The proportion of FDI to GDP for 2008 has been four times higher than the EU average. The most recent surveys among investors put Bulgaria among the 3 top investment destinations in Southeast Europe together with Croatia and Romania. Over the past few years, Bulgaria is steadily placed among the countries with high FDI performance and high FDI potential. According to UNCTAD's Inward FDI Performance Index comparing 141 economies, Bulgaria ranks second after Hong Kong (China) for the 2005-2007 period.

The overall FDI stock in Bulgaria from 1992 until the end of 2009 has reached a bit over EUR 38 billion as almost 80% have been attracted from 2005 until 2010.

Table 2. FDI by type of investment, EUR million

Type of investment	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Equity capital	1,789.3	3,234.1	4,765.2	4,129.1	2,204.2	1,492.7
Reinvested earnings	408.7	957.5	1,547.2	-183.5	308.5	208.7
Other capital	954.1	2,030.0	2,739.5	2,751.0	699.8	-62.8
Total	3,152.1	6,221.6	9,051.8	6,696.5	3,212.5	1,638.6

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

The major investors in Bulgaria are Austria, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Greece, Germany, Cyprus, Luxembourg and the USA, and the main sectors of investment are energy, real estate and processing industry, followed by financial services, transport and communications.

While for the period 2006-2009, about 70% of FDI have been in the financial sector, construction, real estate and trade, and only about 11% - in industry and energy, now, that ratio has changed significantly in favor of industry and energy. The amount of FDI in the country for 2010 has the lowest value for the past 10 years. As in previous years, the largest investor-countries in Bulgaria have been the EU countries, followed by Russia and the USA.

Despite the lower volume of FDI attracted in 2010, in terms of industrial structure, there is a concentration of investments in the sectors of manufacturing, transport and logistics (50% share of the total). Therefore, there is targeting of investment flows into the real sector of the economy and reduction of opportunistic investments, which is a positive trend.

#### Bulgarian stock market expectations

The first manifestation of the financial crisis in the end of 2008 was on the Bulgarian Stock Exchange (BSE), where because of global uncertainty and declining liquidity in October 2007 due to the indexes and the daily turnover. For the period from mid October 2007 until mid-October 2008 SOFIX index lost nearly 70% of its value.

In the past two years, the situation on the Bulgarian Stock Exchange is stabilizing. For 2010, there is no supply on the primary market (the IPO) of BSE-Sofia. The secondary market in 2010 has declined by almost 18% and equals EUR 280.8 million in comparison to EUR 341.3 million in 2009. Along with this turnover, the value of transactions in shares outside the stock

exchange signed and released by the BSE platform equals EUR 158.86 million (EUR 298.6 million in 2009)

### Investment incentives

The national investment legislation foresees several groups of incentives based on the location of the investment and the performance indicators. An investment is classified as class A or class B depending on the value, region and sector allocation.

Table 3. Investment classifications, EUR million

Region or sector	Class B	Class A
Whole country	>5.1	>10.2
In municipalities with unemployment rate equal or more than the country's average	>2.0	>3.6
In high-tech activities in the manufacturing industry for the whole country	>2.0	>3.6
In high-tech activities in the services, computer technologies and R&D sectors for the whole country	>1.0	>2.0

Source: Investment Promotion Act

### Incentives under the Investment Promotion Act

- All classes (Class A & Class B):
- Information services and shortened administrative procedures
- Preferential treatment upon acquisition of a right of ownership and limited rights over real estate – private state or private municipal property
- Financial support for vocational training of employees for the needs of the investment project Class A only:
- Individual administrative services
- Infrastructure support to the boundaries of the investment project site

From 2004 until the end of 2010, under the Investment Promotion Act 136 investment projects (first, second and third grade, and class A and B) were certified. Out of these, nearly half (63) were certified in 2007, which was the most successful in terms of attracting FDI in Bulgaria so far. The investment legislation envisages special support to priority investment projects.

### Priority investment projects

#### No sector restrictions

##### Conditions:

- Investment of more than EUR 50 million and 200 employed, or
- Employment creation or investment in high-tech activities in depressed regions – EUR 25 million and 100 employed, or
- Investment in technological parks – EUR 15 million and 50 employed, or
- Investment in industrial zones construction – EUR 35 million and 100 employed, or
- Investment in education, professional services, R&D, human health care, IT, cultural activities, etc. - EUR 10 million and 50 employed

#### Incentives:

- VIP treatment to investors
- Individually negotiated incentives package
- Administrative assistance by a joint working group
- Public-private partnership options
- Grant opportunities

#### Non-fiscal incentives to investors under the European financial instruments

As a member of the European Union, over the reference period 2007-2013, Bulgaria has access to EUR 12 billion under the Structural (European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund) and Cohesion Funds, as well as under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund. The Structural and Cohesion Funds and the national budget finance several operational programmers as the majority of them provide financial support for the implementation of investment projects:

- Operational program (OP) “Regional Development” for ensuring the convergence of the districts and municipalities in Bulgaria (EURO 1.6 billion)
- OP “Competitiveness” for investment of companies in long-term tangible (machinery and equipment) and non-tangible assets (patents, licenses, software, etc.), ISO certification, innovation, etc. (EURO 1.1 billion)
- OP “Human Resources Development” – training, qualification, life-long learning of personnel (EURO 1.2 billion)
- OP “Environment” – water cycle, waste management and biodiversity (EURO 1.8 billion)
- OP “Transport” (EURO 2.0 billion) for priority elements of the transport infrastructure

The different measures under the Rural Areas Development Program (EURO 3.6 billion) provide financial support to agricultural development and development of non-agricultural projects in 231 rural municipalities (out of a total of 264 municipalities in Bulgaria)

#### 2.6.2 GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS

##### Labour legislation

The main laws concerning the labor force including the employment of foreign nationals are:

[Employment Promotion Act](#)

[Regulations for the terms and the order for performing of intermediary activities when employing](#)

[Ordinance for the conditions and the order of issuing, refusal and revoking work permits of foreigners in the republic of Bulgaria](#)

[Ordinance no. 2 dated 10 september 2002, concerning the conditions and order for issuing of permits for implementing of freelance practice of foreigners in the republic of Bulgaria](#)

Foreign persons, who are not citizens of an EU member state or of a state that is a party under the Covenant of the European Economic Space or of Switzerland, who by virtue of international agreements with the EU have the right of free movement, need a work permit for working in Bulgaria. The work permit is a personal document certifying the right of the foreigner to work

on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria only for a specific corporate body or an individual, and for the place, occupation, kind and term of work indicated in the document. Detailed information about the order of issuing, refusal and revoking work permits of foreigners in Bulgaria is available on the following web sites: [www.az.government.bg](http://www.az.government.bg) and [www.mlsp.government.bg](http://www.mlsp.government.bg).

The Social security system covers retirement, health and unemployment risks and obligations.

Table 4. Types of insurance under the Social Security Code in Bulgaria

Type of insurance	Paid by		Total (%)
	Employer (%)	Employee (%)	
Health	4.8	3.2	8.00
Social:			
Pension insurance fund	9.9	7.9	16.00
Sickness & motherhood insurance fund	2.1	1.4	3.50
Employment insurance fund	0.4 to 1.1	0.00	0.4 to 1.1
Unemployment fund	0.6	0.4	1.00
Guaranteed payment of the employees and servants fund	0.0	0.00	0.1
Total	17.8 to 18.5	12.9	30.7 to 31.4

Source: National Social Security Institute

Monthly contributions are calculated on the remuneration and other employment income of the employee for the respective month but over not more than the maximum monthly insurance base fixed annually, which is BGN 2,000 (EUR 1,023) in 2011. The minimum salary in Bulgaria is BGN 270 (EUR 138) as of 1 September 2011.

#### Competition regulations

The Commission on Protection of Competition ([www.cpc.bg](http://www.cpc.bg)) is empowered to enforce the Law on Protection of Competition, the Public Procurement Act and the Concessions Act. The Commission's scope of activity covers all requests on established infringements of free market competition, direct enforcement of the provisions of Art. 81 and Art. 82 of the EC Treaty, cooperation with the European Commission and the other national competition authorities of the EC member states in conformity with EC Regulation No.1/2003 and EC Regulation No. 139/2004, conducting sector analyses and competition advocacy. Under the rules and procedures, envisaged by the Public Procurement Act and the Concessions Act, the Commission examines the appeals on the lawfulness of a decision, actions or lack of actions/omissions of the contracting authorities or concessioners in the public procurement or concession awarding procedure.

#### Environmental regulations

All environmental regulations are within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment and Waters ([www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)). The Bulgarian legislation is synchronized with the EU

legislation as Bulgaria is a part of the EU. The main regulations are the Environmental Protection Law and the Law on the Responsibility for Preventing and Remedying of Environmental Damage. Along with these, there are orders, ordinances and rules issued by the Ministry and its territorial structures.

#### Dispute resolution mechanisms

The national legislation in the field of arbitration consists of the Civil Procedure Code and the Law on International Commercial Arbitration, which is applicable to international commercial disputes, based on an arbitral clause, when the arbitration takes place on the territory of Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has also ratified the following international conventions in the field of arbitration:

- Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (ratified 1961)
- New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards
- European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration (ratified 1964)
- European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Penalty and Civil Matters (ratified 1994)
- Washington Convention for Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Other States' Citizens (ratified 2000).
- 56 bilateral agreements on mutual protection and promotion of foreign investment.

The most reputable arbitration courts in Bulgaria function with the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Bulgarian Industrial Association. Under the Law on Public Procurement, a specialized Arbitration Court at the Public Procurement Agency has been established (1 October 2004) to deal with public procurement disputes.

The Law on Mediation (published, State Gazette 110/2004) establishes the grounds for independent mediation services for alternative out-of-court settlement of commercial and other disputes.

### 3. CHARACTERISTICS BY COUNTIES

#### 3.1 COUNTIES OF SLOVAKIA

##### *BRATISLAVA COUNTY*

International destinations

Types of tourism:

- Long-term incoming foreign tourism over 50%; intensive domestic tourism as well
- Stay tourism – short-term in incoming as well as in domestic tourism
- Long–stay waterside tourism only in the summer time;
- One-day visits – domestic as well as foreign tourism, transit
- Forms of tourism:
- Sightseeing tourism
- Business tourism
- Summer waterside stays
- Activities with the highest long-term potential:
- Discovering cultural heritage
- Business tourism
- Congress/conference tourism
- Visiting cultural and sport events
- Stays/recreation near water
- Water sports
- Boat sports and water tourism
- Cycle tourism

The region is, thanks to Bratislava, the most popular Slovak destination for foreign tourism. As far as the number of overnight stays is concerned, the Bratislava region is the second best behind the Tatra region, the reason being that the Bratislava region is mainly visited for a short period. 197 landlord functions in the county, with 17 884 beds. In 2010 in the county 1 569 404 tourist nights were spent, 871 530 were foreign visitors.

The most important attraction of the county is Bratislava, the capital that has a complex touristic offer with international significance (<http://visit.bratislava.sk/en>). The Low Carpathian mountains eastern side, mainly Modra and Pezinok cities and their surroundings, their monuments and gastro tourism is highly interesting. An important base for waterside recreation is the city of Senec.

## *TRNAVA COUNTY*

### Types of tourism:

- Intensive domestic tourism
- In the summer time incoming foreign tourism mainly from the Czech Republic and Hungary
- Long-stay tourism - in the summer time
- Otherwise short-stays and scores of one-day visits
- Forms of tourism:
  - Summer waterside tourism, water sports
  - Summer thermal waterside stays
  - Sightseeing tourism – historical heritage
- Activities with the highest long-term potential:
  - Waterside stays / recreation
  - Water Sports
  - Water tourism / boat sports
  - Thermal
  - Cycle tourism
  - Rural tourism
  - Sightseeing tourism

The region is popular mainly among less solvent clients as a cheap holiday destination. As far as foreign tourists are concerned, only holidaymakers from the Czech Republic with a tight holiday budget and guests from neighbouring Hungary - often due to their ethnic links - come to visit this region. The low share of the bed capacity of the Slovak Republic and its low utilisation are put down to having only one short season.

The most important attractions of the county along the Danube are the spa baths (Dunajská Streda, Veľký Meder, Sládkovičovo, Horné Saliby, and Topoľníky). Apart from this, a lot of cyclists and water tourists are attracted to the Danube region. Cultural monuments in the county seat, in Trnava, along the Danube region are in Dunajská Streda and in Šamorín. In the county there are 213 landlords, with 14 904 beds. In 2007 in the county 1 137 552 tourist nights were spent.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Trnava region:

Project 1.-3.

<p>Title and address of the project : Dunajbus, Šamorín</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Launching of regular boat transport between Samorín and Bratislava.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, local inhabitants</p>	
<p>Contact person Lajos Tuba, RRA Šamorín, Hlavná 37, 00421 905 233 989, tuba@rrasamorin.sk</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project : Building the network of services for water tourism along the Danube</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Building the network of complex services for boat tourism</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Water tourists</p>	
<p>Contact person Lajos Tuba, RRA Šamorín, Hlavná 37, 00421 905 233 989, tuba@rrasamorin.sk</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project : Reconstruction of the Korona, Šamorín</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Revamping of the building of the former monastery into cultural or touristic center.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, local inhabitants</p>	
<p>Contact person Ervin Sármany, City Hall Šamorín, Hlavná 37, 00 421 31 5900416, <a href="mailto:prednosta@samorin.sk">prednosta@samorin.sk</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

## *NITRA COUNTY*

### Types of tourism:

- Intensive domestic tourism
- In the summer time incoming foreign tourism mainly from the Czech Republic and Hungary
- Long-stay tourism - in the summer time
- Forms of tourism:
  - Summer waterside tourism, water sports
  - Summer thermal waterside stays
  - Sightseeing tourism – historical heritage
- Activities with the highest long-term potential:
  - Waterside stays / recreation
  - Water Sports
  - Thermal
  - Rural tourism
  - Sightseeing tourism

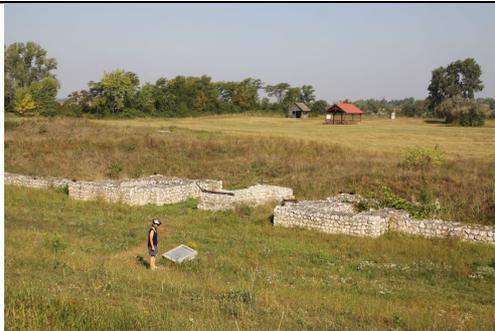
The region is popular mainly among less solvent clients as a cheap holiday destination. As far as foreign tourists are concerned, only holidaymakers from the Czech Republic with a tight holiday budget and guests from neighbouring Hungary - often due to their ethnic links - come to visit this region.

The most important attractions of the county along the Danube are the spa baths (Štúrovo, Podhájska, Patince, Diakovce, and Tvrdošovce). Cultural monuments are in Komárno. Landlords functioning in the county have 15 285 beds, in 2009 tourist spent 651 396 nights here.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Nitra region:

Project 1.-3.

<p>Title and address of the project: Port and natural school in Klizská Nemá</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Within the village development: building of pontoon port, revamping of the building of the kindergarten into natural school.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, students</p>	
<p>Contact person Rozália Szalay, 00421 35 779 59 13, <a href="mailto:ocukl-nema@nexta.sk">ocukl-nema@nexta.sk</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project : Iža, Roman Museum</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Founding of Museum of Roman military camp</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: tourists</p>	
<p>Contact person István Domin, <u>Obecný úrad</u>, Ďateľinová 674, 946 39 Iža, 0421 35 778 31 53, <a href="mailto:obeciza@iza.sk">obeciza@iza.sk</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project : Chľaba, port on the Danube</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Building of port for water tourism</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: tourists</p>	
<p>Contact person Henrieta Koszovszka, <u>Obecný úrad</u>, Chľaba 197 943 66 Chľaba, <a href="mailto:chlaba@atlas.sk">chlaba@atlas.sk</a>, 00 421 36 757 31 62</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

## 3.2 COUNTIES OF HUNGARY

### *GYŐR-MOSON-SOPRON COUNTY*

The tourism potential of the county

In terms of transport conditions, connecting the country and its Capital with Western Europe (E60-E75), the county belongs to one of the most advantageous regions of Hungary. The population of the county is around 450 000 persons, its area is 4208 km<sup>2</sup>. The population of the county seat, Győr is 131 267 persons, while the second greatest cities population is 60 755 persons. In 2008, the guest turnover of the county in commercial accommodations was 965 000 guest nights, which is among the highest ones in Hungary. Its two accentuated areas are Győr (188.000 guest nights) and Sopron (409.000 guest nights). Due to the vast natural resources, advantageous transportation allocation and numerous cultural values in the latter years increased its attraction and improved the positions of tourism.

The major attractions

The determining natural attractions of the county are connected to protected areas. The most important one is the Fertő-Hanság National Park, which is the accentuated basis for tourism with its wetland habitats, rich bird fauna and natural attractions. A significant part of the Szigetköz is a protected area as well. The Danube area with the Mosoni-branch has the chance now to become a national park. The county is rich of the meandering branches of the Danube such as the Rába and the Répce that which are an excellent basis for water tourism development. Out of the cultural values of the county, the most important ones are the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Millenary Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma and its Natural Environment (1996), Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (2001). Besides them, we have to highlight the historically important castles (Nagyecenk – Széchenyi Castle, Fertőd– Eszterházz Castle), the cities with significant monumental values (principally Sopron and Győr built on Roman foundations) and the villages preserving heritage from the Middle Ages from Lake Fertő to River Rába.

There is a very important and valuable mineral, thermal and curative water basis under the major land of the county, the Kisalföld, enhancing the possibilities for health tourism. There are two wine producing regions in the hills, strengthening the attraction of the county. The Soproni Wine District is mainly famous for its heavy red wines. The major profile of the Pannonhalma-Sokoróaljai Wine District is based on white wines.

Tourism products

The eco and water tourism is based on the excellent natural endowments of the protected areas and floodplains. Both products are supported by established protected area study trails, hiking tours, docking and resting places around the rivers. The protected areas are connected with cycling routes, their signed network is an important piece of Hungary's cycling tourism as well. It is also important that around Lake Fertő the cycling routes are connected with the Austrian side as well. At numerous places of the county curative and thermal water has been discovered and revealed so we have to mention and highlight Balf, Lipót, Hegykő, Kapuvár, (health tourism) Csorna and Győr (experience spa) in this respect. The two wine districts serve

as an excellent basis for wine tourism and catering. There is a significant supply of cultural tourism based on the World Heritage Sites and monuments and cultural heritage of the cities and countryside castles. This supply is accentuated in the greater cities of the county (Győr, Sopron, Kapuvár, Csorna, Mosonmagyaróvár) and some of its villages such as Fertőrákos or Nagycenk where event tourism is based as well.

#### Destinations

The two most important destinations of the county are Sopron and Győr. The Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape, the areas of the national park and the wine district is connected to the surrounding areas of Sopron. This spatial destination also extends to the castles of the Fertőmente and its health tourism basis as well. The Szigetköz and the Abbey of Pannonhalma accentuate Győr's tourism.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Győr-Moson-Sopron county      Project 1.

<p>Project title and location: The development of the environment of the thermal spa in Lipót</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The thermal spa and leisure centre of Lipót is situated along the branches of the Danube on 12 hectares. In the close vicinity of the thermal spa there are areas classified for tourism developments and commercial accommodation buildings at a favorable price. There is a football centre (with thermal heat), horse riding centre and an international airport with grass cover to be found. The tourism possibilities of Lipót are very advantageous and the settlement is to be found in the centre of the Wien-Bratislava-Győr triangle with remarkable natural endowments.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourism investors, commercial accommodation investors, local government, guest caterers</p>	
<p>Contact person Szabóné, Vejtey Alice +3630/520-8827</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Project title and location: Eco tourism developments in the Szigetköz area</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The Szigetköz area provides an excellent basis for water tourism, eco tourism and active tourism forms, such as cycling. The area also plans to become a national park. The recreational and tourism developments of the Szigetköz would enhance the endowments for cycling and hiking routes and water touring as well.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local governments, water tourists, active tourists, sports organizations, investors in services and water tourism</p>	
<p>Contact person Sándor Széles, chairman „Szigetköz - Felső-Duna mente” Térségi Fejlesztési Tanács/Szigetköz Spatial Development Council Győr, Árpád u. 32.)</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

## *KOMÁROM-ESZTERGOM COUNTY*

### The tourism potential of the county

The area of the county belonging to the Central-Transdanubian Region is 2265 km<sup>2</sup> is with a population of more than 314 000 persons so this is one of the most densely populated counties of Hungary. The advantageous transport geographical allocation (Budapest-Wien railway line, transport corridor along the Danube) and the cross border allocation to Slovakia is a favorable characteristic to tourism development, but its tourism is mainly transit like. Taking into consideration the guest flow the number of the 2008 commercial accommodations have not even reached 360 000, which data is under the national average. In this moderate guest flow, the transit characteristics play a very important role. The towns of the county belong to the small and medium sized towns out of which the county seat Tatabánya (70 164 persons) and the second greatest historical center Esztergom (30 858 persons) should be highlighted. The multifarious construction of the county and its geologic and relief conditions colligates three major units: the limestone cliffs of the Transdanubian Mountains, the hilly and terrace areas along the Danube and the basins on the confines of the Kisalföld. From 2001 the county is again connected with Párkány on the Slovakian side with a bridge on the Danube. Since its reconstruction, the Mária Valéria Bridge transacts a significant amount of traffic turnover even in tourism. The railway and public road bridges of Komárom area also of significant importance concerning the direction of north south transport

### The major attractions

Out of the existing attractions of the county the following ones carry the chance to become a long haul tourism centre on the international tourism market as well:

- The fort network of Komárom (Forts of Monostori, Csillag and Igmándi could be complemented with the forts of the Slovakian side with similar characteristics). The 19th century fortification network is an expectant to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site both by the promotion of the Hungarian and the Slovakian partners.
- The Fort of Esztergom – as the centre of the Hungarian Christianity – and its surrounding areas (Basilica) is having the same importance as the previously mentioned attractions to which the historical city centre and the experience spa on the shores of the Danube are organically connected.
- The cultural and industrial heritage attractions of Oroszlány-Majk-Tatabánya (The Hermits of Kamaldul and the Mining Exhibition, the Skanzen in Majk and in Tatabánya)
- The city centre and the Old Lake of Tata (Old Lake, Fortress, Eszterházy Castle and the city centre) are quite important attractions as well
- In the areas of Bábolna-Kisbér, an international equestrian centre is developed based on the historical-farming traditions.

All these regions are framed with the mountains of Pilis and Gerecse and some parts of the Vértes, which are the basic attractions – together with the Danube – in terms of natural beauties. The Nature Park in Vértes is Hungary's first such institution. The attractions are also strengthened by the east-west direction Neszmélyi Wine District.

## Tourism products

The strengths of the tourism supply of the county are mainly realized in cultural tourism. The fortresses, castles historical small and medium size towns together with the supply of religious and festival tourism create the basics for the supply side. The products are focused on Esztergom, Tata and Komárom. The Danube plays only a moderate role with the turnover of its excursionist ships and water tourism. The protected areas of the mountains are the scenes for ecotourism and hiking, walking tourism strengthened by study trails and exhibition places. The most important bases for wine tourism and gastronomy are in Neszmély and Keszthely.

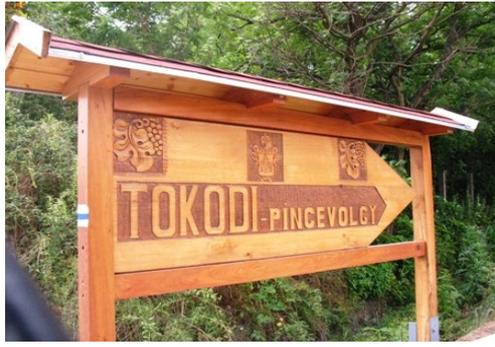
## Destinations

The county means the network of tourism centre areas and their connecting transit corridors. The major centers are situated along the Danube from Komárom, to Neszmély and Esztergom along main road No. 10. The other line of centers and transit corridors are situated along the M1 highway from Bábolya, towards Tata and Tatabánya. Kislőd and Oroszlány on the northern parts of the Vértes should be not considered as to real tourist destinations.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Komárom- Esztergom- County Project 1.

<p>Project title and location: Tokod, the presentation of the Roman Fortress</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Tokod was a remarkable centre in the Roman ages from the 1st century B.C. on. Later on, the area was a significant fortress of the Limes. The local fortress was built in the 3rd century A.D. Its tourism utilization is based on the continuation of the archaeological excavation, which could be followed by the adequate exhibition of the monument A good local example for this is the annually organized Gardellaca Roman Festival where visitors can be acquainted with the former Roman culture and generalship and the gastronomy. The fortress is an important historical heritage of the denomination program of the Roman Limes to become a world heritage.</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Ones interested in cultural heritage, Roman culture, rural heritage or active tourism, such as hiking and water tourism. Investors of the exhibition and tourism can utilize the fortress.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Barbara Berta +36 33 505 110, +36 20/255 79 73</p>	
<p>Other information: <a href="http://www.tokod.hu">www.tokod.hu</a> <a href="http://www.rippapannonica.hu">www.rippapannonica.hu</a></p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Komárom –Esztergom County Project 2.

<p>Project title and location: Tokod, the presentation of the Pincevölgy (cellar valley)</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The Pincevölgy (cellar valley) is situated 2 kilometers from Tokod in the 1119 road to the direction of Tatabánya. Its history dates back several centuries with its old cellars and press houses. The most remarkable grape types are “tramini”, “rizlingszilváni” and “chardonnay.” At present many events are held (harvest festivals, open cellar events) in the area which is also an attraction for hiking tourists as a part of the national “Kék Túra” (Blue tour) and “Kinizsi százas” (Kinizsi one hundred) hiking trails.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Some people are interested in wine tourism and they buy wine cellars Event organizers and promoters. Tourists and investors are interested in active tourism, such as hiking, cycling and water tourism.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Barbara Berta +36 33 505 110, +36 20/255 79 73</p>	
<p>Other information: <a href="http://www.tokod.hu">www.tokod.hu</a></p>	

## *BUDAPEST*

### Touristic potential of the Capital

The Capital is of course the most important cultural, political and transportation centre of Hungary. Budapest is by far the most important tourism destination of Hungary in every aspect of tourism statistics, concerning the number of tourist and visitor arrivals, guest nights, tourism spending and the revenue as well. The city itself is more and more well known in the scope of the international tourists for weekend visits, longer stays or in terms of business, cultural and health tourism demand. In the Capital, the tourism industry accounts for more than 490,000 jobs and 8-8,5% of the GDP. In the last years Budapest attracted an altogether of 3, 5-3,7 million visitors annually.

The tourism infra- and suprastructure is also the most developed in the country, in terms of services, catering industry and commercial and private accommodations as well. The most 4 and 5 star hotels of the country is located in Budapest. Traffic and transport conditions are however open top criticism, surface traffic jams are every day problems of the city. The city can be discovered on foot, bicycle (city bikes as well), public transport, by tourist buses (sightseeing tours), and tourist boats as well.

Taking into consideration its major tourism attractions, we can experience the country's most diverse tourism supply. In connection with historical memories and architecture we have to highlight the Roman built memories, the Turkish baths, the Gothic-style architectural memories, the heritage of the Baroque, Secession and Bauhaus. There are two UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Capital, namely the Danube Panorama and Castle District from 1987 and the Andrássy Avenue and Heroes' Square from 2002. According to the official tourism publication of the Capital the top ten tourism attractions are the following: 1. Buda Castle District and Mathias Church, 2. Chain Bridge, 3. Parliament, 4. Heroes' square, 5. St. Stephen's Basilica, 6. Andrassy Avenue, 7. The Synagogue in Dohány Street, 8. Margaret Island, 9. The Thermal Spas of Budapest, 10. Citadel and Gellért Hill. The most well known health spas of the country are also located in the Capital: Gellért Spa, Széchenyi Spa, Rác Spa, Király Spa, and Lukács Spa.

The city's major tourism products are: cultural tourism (churches, memorials, museums, galleries, exhibitions), health tourism (spas and baths), event tourism (festivals, sports events, concerts, cultural events, political events), business tourism, sports and wellness tourism (Hungary's most well known sports tourism infrastructure is located in the Capital, stadiums, internationally known caves of Budapest, Aquaworld, golf courses, ice-rink etc.) and gastronomy.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Budapest

Project 1-2.

<p>Project title and location: Revitalization of Várkert Bazár Royal Garden Pavilion, Budapest, I. district</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The Bazar is a historic monument on the Danube waterfront in the centre of Budapest. It was finished in 1888 and contains a grand staircase linking the Royal Palace to the waterfront as well as a number of residential buildings, shop fronts and pavilions. As well as bringing Varkert's old glamour back, the municipality is planning to create a multi-purpose centre In the design program, the investors plan to convert the residential buildings into office space. The south line of arcades will be used as restaurants and shops, the north line of bazaars will host commercial shops and coffee houses, just as it used to in the past.</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Municipality, investors, catering enterprises</p>	
<p>Contact person dr. Aczél Péter Chief Architect, Telefon: +36 1 458-3017</p>	
<p>Other information: Total budget: 500.000.000 euros</p>	
<p>Project title and location: Wine Hill (Borhegy) Theme Park, Budafok-Tétény, Budapest XXII. district</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The Budafok Borhegy (Wine Hill) Theme Park will be established South to the historic quarter of Budafok, which according to plans will serve and operate as a „wine route” and as an attraction related to wine production. There are a number of award winning wine houses still operating today. These offer a broad range of programs to the visitors.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Municipality and population of Budafok-Tétény, enterprises involved in local wine industry, hotels, catering enterprises.</p>	
<p>Contact person Mr. György Szesztai, Municipality of Budafok-Tétény E-mail: szesztai@bp22.hu Phone: +36 1 2292611 (111)</p>	

## *PEST COUNTY*

### Touristic potential of the county

Taking into consideration the tourism rank of the Hungarian counties, Pest county is ranked in the middle of the hierarchy so we can clearly state that its advantageous location – being in the nearby of the Capital – is not prevailing in its tourism statistics. The county's visitors are mainly domestic tourists.

Its tourism is rather spatially disproportioned since there is a strong spatial concentration of tourists and visitors in the northern areas and the right bank of the Danube. The major tourism products of the county are built on cultural tourism, the different forms of active tourism and health preservation. The supply of the county shows a great spatial diffusion.

There are three major tourism districts or destinations in the county, namely: The Danube Bend accentuated tourism district, the surrounding areas of Budapest and the Ráckeve Danube accentuated tourism district.

The Danube Bend spreads around the mountains of Börzsöny, Visegrád and Pilis at an approximately 40 km long distance comprising also the Pest plains and a part of the Ipoly valley. The most important attraction of the area is the vast characteristics of natural beauty, the nationally known cultural-historical attractions, the water sports possibilities, thermal water, hiking and the nearby location of the Capital. A certain majority of its visitors are coming from the Capital both domestic (weekend tourism, hiking, holidays) and international tourists.

There are 93 settlements in the surrounding areas of Budapest tourism district. The area's important attractions are the natural endowments as well since it covers a part of the Transdanubian Mountains, the Pesti Plains and the Ráckeve Danube area as well. The most important tourism products of the area are the different forms of active tourism and cultural tourism, but it is mainly serving the needs of weekend holiday tourism.

The Ráckeve Danube tourism district is the smallest among the presented ones of Pest county both taking in consideration its area or population. Its tourism values and attractions are concentrated on the Ráckeve Danube section along the Csepel Island, some parts of the Kiskunság National Park and numerous mine lakes. The area's tourism utilisation is based mainly on its nearby location to the Capital as a basis for weekend holidays. Its tourism centers are: Ráckeve, Délegyháza, Apaj and Kiskunlacháza.

Based on the data of the Central Statistical Office of Hungary three towns and a parish are considered settlements with the importance of tourism (located out of the three analyzed tourism districts). These are Cegléd, Dabas, Nagykőrös and Tápiószentmárton.

The most important tourism products of the county are: cultural and heritage tourism, active tourism (water tourism, hiking, equestrian tourism, cycling, angling and hunting), event tourism, health tourism, rural tourism, wine and gastronomy, business tourism.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Pest County

Project 1.

<p>Project title and location: The establishment of a ship, small ship marina in Szob</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: In order to develop tourism a marina should be developed in Szob with all its necessary service institutions. At present there is no possibility for public utilization boarding, there is a private port and ferryboat in the region functioning. After the planned tourism infrastructure investments – ship restoration workshop – it would be inevitable to function a port as well.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, water tourists, small ship owners, local government</p>	
<p>Contact person: István Szőke, mayor 2628 Szob Szent Imre u. 12. +36/27 570 690, <a href="mailto:szob@vnet.hu">szob@vnet.hu</a></p>	

<p>Project title and location: The complex development of the Zebegény-Danube shore area</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The famous section of the Danube in Zebegény is a well known target area for excursionists from the 1900s. The conditions of its beach and ship turnover unfortunately were sunk in the last decades, today only a ferry is functioning. The location further on provides an excellent basis for active water tourism. Its complex development would be achieved in three phases: 1. the beach and its surroundings, 2. an expiry to the strand and the tidying of its green areas, 3. the creation of an eco camping, renewal of the bathing facilities, creation of a parking place. These developments would cover a 2000 m long section of the Danube. Planned investments and services are boat and ship rent, water pier, yacht port, organization of sports events.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, cycling tourists, water tourists, ship owners, sportsmen, investors in water tourism.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Ernő Ervin Ferenczi vice mayor +36-70-380-6528</p>	

## *FEJÉR COUNTY*

### Touristic potential of the county

Besides the favorable geographical location and the economic development level, the county possesses favourable natural and cultural endowments in terms of tourism development as well. Fejér County is one of the most developed counties of Hungary, its location is favorable, its natural and cultural endowments are diversified, and its infrastructure is rather developed. In terms of the tourism, rank of the counties of Hungary Fejér belongs to the middle positioned countries. Its share of the national tourism receipts can be estimated to be 1,5-2%.

Half of the turnover of the county's commercial accommodations is centered to Lake Velencei, where more than 60% of the guest nights are concentrated to the high season, which also determines the seasonality conditions of the county.

The most important characteristics of the county's tourism are the predominance of transit and excursionist travelers, the strong seasonality and the spatial concentration of the Lake Velencei accentuated tourism zone. The tourism spending is rather low, the middle and southern areas of the county are hardly involved in tourism.

In the northern and – in a smaller extent – in the southern areas of the county and in the Sárvíz valley there are significant nature based areas, which are adequate to the development of eco tourism. In the middle parts of the county in the so-called Mezőföld area the agricultural production and farming is predominating. Lake Velencei and River Danube provides excellent endowments to water tourism and the different forms of active tourism as well such as water sports, water holidays and angling. The water quality and the water supply of Lake Velencei in the dry summer seasons mean significant problems of tourism development in the area.

The infrastructural background of the county is rather advantageous within Hungary, its accessibility is good in every aspect of transportation forms (the air transport and accessibility as well is under development recently, there are two motorways as well: M7 and M6, and a new bridge on the Danube is planned in the near future).

The attractions of the county are mainly of regional and national importance, there are no internationally important tourism products yet in the county. Taking into consideration the national attraction survey of the Hungarian Tourism Ltd. there are 10 tourism products, which can be developed to be internationally known, 22 to be nationally known and visited and 78 of regional and 27 of local importance.

Besides the general unfavorable accommodation structure their spatial allocation is also very much concentrated: more than 60% are located around Lake Velence.

Taking into consideration the already elaborated tourism development concepts and plans of the county there are six characteristic areas in Fejér as development target areas:

- Székesfehérvár, the cultural and historical heritage centre of the county
- The Lake Velencei – Vértes Mountains area
- The Saris region
- Dunaújváros and the areas along the River Danube
- Mór and its surrounding, on the southwestern part of the county and the region of Enying.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Fejér County

Project 1.

<p>Project title and location: The revitalization of the southern parts of the Schalbert Island</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The aim of the project is to renew the buildings of the former Shalbert hall and its area on 4 hectares by creating public and welfare buildings and areas. Primarily the target is to establish a summertime rower base and a campsite for the rowing water tourists.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Building contractors, authorities, civilian organizations, water tourists, local population</p>	
<p>Contact person István Kutrovác, Schalbert Kisapostag Településfejlesztési Alapítvány /Regional Development Foundation advisory board chairman</p> <p>Telephone: +36/20/9392-722 Email: <a href="mailto:kisapostagert@index.hu">kisapostagert@index.hu</a></p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Fejér County

Project 2.

Project title and location: The construction of a wellness centre and hotel	Photo about the area or connected to the topic
<p>Short description: The aim of the project is to create a wellness center with complex service supply, besides the Szitányi bank around Baracs, in the picturesque area of the Danube and a hotel with high standards.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Building contractors, authorities, civilian organizations, water tourists, local population</p>	
<p>Contact person István Kutrovác, manager of the KYK5Ő Kft., Schalbert Kisapostag Településfejlesztési Alapítvány /Regional Development Foundation advisory board chairman</p> <p>Telephone: +36/20/9392-722 E-mail: <a href="mailto:yachtkikoto@index.hu">yachtkikoto@index.hu</a></p>	
<p>Other information: This new complex site could be well fitted to the areas next to the already existing yacht port.</p>	 

## *BÁCS-KISKUN COUNTY*

### The tourism potential of the county

Bács-Kiskun county is the greatest county of Hungary with 1/12th of the country's total area. It expands from the sandy areas of the Danube-Tisza region covered with lick lakes to the floodplains of the Tisza and the Danube in an area of 8445,15 km<sup>2</sup>. On the south we find the loess areas of the Bácska (at the border), on the north it is bordering with Pest county, on the east with Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok and Csongrád counties. From the south, it borders with Croatia and Serbia. On the west, the bordering line is the Danube from Baranya, Tolna and Fejér counties. The county seat and the greatest population centre of Bács-Kiskun (528 418 persons) is Kecskemét with more than 113 000 persons. The advantageous geographical allocation, the proximity of the capital, the international railway line and the transit corridor of M5 together with the attractions of the plain areas are simply unable to generate a significant tourism demand. The number of guest nights in commercial accommodations in 2008 did not even reach 356 000 which is a not so significant value. The strengthening of the positions of main road No. 51 along the Danube and the transversal main road No. 52 as well could improve the turnover of the county. The real valorization of the east-west direction turnover could be realized with establishment of the planned M8 highway section connecting Kecskemét as well.

### The major attractions

The most important natural values of the county are situated in the Kiskunsági National Park founded in 1974 in an area of 50 523 ha. There are different ecological units in the mosaic like conformation of the national park such as the lick lakes with a vast range of bird fauna, the meadows of the former farming areas, the shifting sand mounds, the oxbows and the wetland habitats as well. The national park preserves the traditional "tanya"=haunt (sporadic settlement) buildings as well. The traditions of animal husbandry in the great plain region have heritage values as well and at the same time, they are very intense tourism attractions.

On the middle and southeast areas of the county rich thermal water, explorations are found. A significant part of them is established as health tourism bases. River Tisza borders the eastern part of the county but the real river attraction is the Danube on a distance of 123 km.

Its cultural values are connected to the mentioned husbandry, the shepherd culture, the lifestyle in the sporadic settlements and the towns. Kecskemét, Kalocsa, Baja, Kiskunfélegyháza or Kiskunhalas are typical great plain towns of the area. In these towns the historical buildings of the 18-19th, centuries with baroque and secession style are characteristic but gastronomy and art festivals complement their cultural life as well.

All the landscapes of the county have their own production heritage. Here we can find the greatest wine district of Hungary, the Kunsági Wine District with the centers of Kiskőrös-Kecel-Helvécia. The surrounding areas of Baja are famous for their cellars and red wines and the German traditions of the Hajós-Bajai Wine District should be highlighted. Besides all these, the tourism supply is complemented with the religious traditions of Kalocsa and the spice paprika production of the nearby areas.

## Tourism products

The ecotourism and hiking is determining on the protected areas, but the agrarian tourism is having a greater importance showing the folk, artisans and farming traditions of the region. The cultural attractions of the cities are complemented with festivals. A part of the events is connected to gastronomy and wine tourism. The different products of the equestrian tourism are connected to the shepherd culture from horse performances to cross country horse riding and horse coach touring. The greatest registered turnover is performed in the experience spas (health tourism) in Kiskunmajsa and Kalocsa.

## Destinations

The most important target areas of Bács-Kiskun County are the county seat and its surrounding equestrian tourism bases. Besides this Baja with its wine districts and the section of the Danube, Bugac and the national park are also appearing together with the thermal supply of the middle-sized towns. Lakitelek should be mentioned at River Tisza, and Solt and Kalocsa at River Danube with the supply of the different forms of water tourism.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Bács-Kiskun County

Project 1.

<p>Project title and location: Apostag, the development of the Danube bank</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The major elements of the development concept of the Danube at the area of the Local Government of Apostag (2007): The creation of a with free public beach Rehabilitation of the sub branch in Ördög Island, Establishment of a walking bridge to Ördög Island, Ship port rehabilitation, possible business utilization, Establishment of accommodations and a horse centre, with ancient Hungarian animals, Establishment of a guest house and an artificial pond, Establishment of a seasonal ice skate rink.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local and surrounding settlements' population, water tourists, possible investors in tourism and service providers</p>	
<p>Contact person: Zoltán Zakar, Apostag, Kossuth L.u.1. +36-78/528-041, <a href="mailto:polgarmester@apostag.hu">polgarmester@apostag.hu</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

Project 2

<p>Project title and location: The development of the boat port in Dunavecse</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Dunavecse already possesses a boat port which is neighbouring with the Bagóvár which is adequate to accommodate 100 persons. The area also provides excellent endowments for camping tourism. In order to enhance and develop tourism it is necessary to create and establish the services institutions of the boat port.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Water tourists, small boat owners, local governments, investors in tourism services</p>	
<p>Contact person: Sándor Vörös 6087 Dunavecse Fő út 43 06/78 437-116,</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

## *TOLNA COUNTY*

### Touristic potential of the county

Although Tolna County does not dispose too many tourism attractions in a national perspective, from 2002 taking into consideration both its domestic and international visitors, the number of tourists and their guest nights have been producing a growing tendency increasing of country tourism revenues as well.

Besides the domestic characteristics, the development environment can be considered as favorable as well since the development of tourism is continuous and the number of domestic tourists has been growing as well. The institutional and organizational background is also developing promoting the investors in tourism to develop the possible tourism products of the area.

The major tourism products of the county are:

- Thermal and spa tourism (Dombóvár-Gunaras Spa, Tamási Spa): further developments are necessary to be able to serve as a pulling branch in tourism.
- Wine tourism: This is one of the most well known attractions of the county. The most important wine districts of Tolna are the Szekszárdi wine district and the Tolna wine district. The supply is also supported by the high quality wine routes of the Szekszárd wine route and the Tolna wine route
- Hunting tourism (Gemenc, Gyulaj, local hunting associations): the area possesses one of the most well known hunting regions of the country
- Cultural and heritage tourism (Sárköz – ethnic and folk art attractions and values, Harvest Festival in Szekszárd etc.): With the creation of new programs, this segment could be further developed as well.
- Water tourism (River Danube, Fadd-Dombori, Tolnai Holt-Duna (oxbow) branch, Lake Szálkai): this tourism product provides the most important background for active tourism and sport tourism as well.
- Eco tourism (Danube-Drava National Park): We also have to highlight that a certain part of the county is lying on the areas of the Danube-Drava National Park where apart from eater tourism of course the different forms of eco tourism is to be highlighted.
- Event tourism (Dunamenti Folklore Festival, Harvest Festival in Szekszárd, Alisca wine days etc.)
- Angling tourism: (River Danube, angling lakes in the complete county: Dombóvár-Tüske, Dombóvár-Gunaras, Kaposszekcső, Nyerges, Kocsola);
- Equestrian tourism and horse races and events.
- Rural tourism: Hőgyész provides one of the most important bases for village tourism, where the most up to par tourism unit of the county is to be found. Its supply was recently broadened with conference tourism as well.
- Cycling tourism: New cycling routes were developed recently in the area: Dombóvár-Várong-Szakcs-Gunaras, and to the southern direction of Dombóvár.

The major destinations or areas with tourism potential of the county are:

- The most important cities of the county: Szekszárd, Dombóvár, Paks, Dunaföldvár
- Bonyhád and its surroundings called „Völgység” Its cultural values are connected Bonyhád, Grábóc and Kakasd where the supply for tourism based on the strong ethnic presence and heritage tourism.
- The areas along the River Danube with the riverside settlements and the Danube-Drava National Park

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Tolna County

Project 1-2.

<p>Project title and location: The development of a small-sized ship port/marina in Gerjen</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The ferry transport of Gerjen was functioning for more than a century. The area is capable of the establishment and development of a ferry port, a small sized ship port and for water tourists as well. The ferry transport was finished in 2011. In order to develop tourism, the establishment and development of the service institutions would be inevitable.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Water tourists, the owners of the boats</p>	
<p>Contact person Dénes Máté 7134 Gerjen Béke tér 1. 06/75 337-011, 06/20-912-40-87</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Project title and location: The rehabilitation of the Bölcske sub branch</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: For the rehabilitation of the sub branches around Bölcske the Local Government achieved effectual water judicial permissions which cover not only the watercourse sweeping but the beach management as well. The area provides a perfect basis for fishing tourism and water tourism, and for the establishment of waterside projects such as fishing centre, boat centre or port. The creation of the sewage network is also needed.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local government, entrepreneurs in watercourse sweeping, civilian organisations</p>	
<p>Contact person: József Kiss mayor 7025 Bölcske, Kossuth L.u.5. +36/75 335-151, +36/20-5557960</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Tolna County

Project 1-2.

<p>Project title and location: Dunaföldvár, the revitalization of the Zöld Zátony (Green Bank)</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The rehabilitation of the Zöld Bank in Dunaföldvár has several targets. Its primary aim is to stop the ageing process of the sub branch with which a nature protection aim would be achieved as well taking into consideration the recommendations of the Danube-Ipoly National Park. A further aim of the project is that with the rehabilitation the tourism endowments of the Danube would be more utilized by the town and the local population with study trails, bird watching spots and exhibition of the flora and fauna of the Danube.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local government, entrepreneurs in watercourse sweeping, water sport associations</p>	
<p>Contact person: Andor Lajkó Engineering Chief Clerk 7020. Dunaföldvár, Kossuth L.u.2. +36/75 541-558, +36/30-9862687</p>	
<p>Other information: The alteration of the settlement plan has been carried out.</p>	

<p>Project title and location: Dunaföldvár, the former Kendergyár (hemp factory) area which is capable for brown field site investments</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The area is out of use for more than 20 years. The constructing permission of the port has reached completion. The former industrial buildings and areas on several hectares are capable for labour force creating investments.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Possible investors</p>	
<p>Contact person: Andor Lajkó 7020. Dunaföldvár, Kossuth L.u.2. +36/75 541-558, +36/309862687</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

## *BARANYA COUNTY*

### Touristic potential of the county

Taking into consideration the tourism rank of the Hungarian counties, Baranya County is ranked in the middle of the hierarchy in positions 7-9 so we can state that Baranya considering its area and population takes its tourism positions adequate to the geographical and demographic background. In terms of infrastructure, we can state that the county's accessibility positions were really developed by the finishing of the M6 motorway in 2010.

Its areas with a highlighted importance of tourism are:

- Pécs-Mecsek (Pécs, Western-Mecsek and Eastern-Mecsek),
- The Villányi-mountains and its further belonging areas (Villányi wine district, Siklós, Harkány),
- The areas along the River Danube (Bóly-Mohács and the areas belonging to the Danube-Drava National Park),
- Ormánság and Drávamente (along the River Drava),
- Zselic and the region of Szigetvár.

Evaluating the tourism façade of the areas with favorable attractions and development potentials, we can create four major regions with the importance of tourism in the county:

- The range of settlements along the River Drava and Danube in South of Baranya. In this region, the major attraction is the nature based active tourism and traditional values.
- North and west from the upper mentioned region the second most important tourism zone is situated in the Harkány, Siklós and Villány region where the most characteristic tourism products are based on gastronomy and wine tourism (Siklós-Villány wine district and wine route), health tourism and wellness (Harkány, Siklós)
- Pécs as the most determining economic, cultural and tourism centre of Baranya and South Transdanubia with a wide range of supply, which was very much highlighted on the international market segment as well with the European Capital of Culture Program in 2010. Its supply is mainly based on culture, heritage, traditions, architectural supply etc.
- The Mecsek Mountains, which are situated north from Pécs, are connected to active tourism, rural tourism and nature-based tourism forms. Based on their dominant product types it can be further divided to two parts: Western Mecsek and Eastern Mecsek. Both areas are independent in their tourism façade and they are rather connected to Pécs than to each other.

The accentuated tourism products of Baranya County are:

- Health and thermal tourism,
- Active tourism products in Baranya county,
- Wine tourism, wine routes,
- Village tourism,
- Cultural tourism.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Baranya County

Project 1-2.

<p>Project title and location: The extension and development of the eco and environment friendly guest catering system in Baranya</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The adaptation of a qualification system of eco and environment friendly guest catering system in the region</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Target group: tourists, inhabitants of the area, business sector, local governments</p>	
<p>Contact person: Melinda Endrédi, cluster manager, Dél-Dunántúli Falusi Turizmus Klaszter/South Transdanubian Village Tourism Cluster, 7625 Pécs, Vince u. 9/2, Tel.: 06 72 782 691, Fax: 06 72 782-687</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Project title and location: The coordination of tourism networks and thematic routes in the county and their coordinated development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wine routes</li> <li>• Event network</li> <li>• Eco tour routes</li> </ul>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: To achieve a common coordination of tourism networks and thematic routes in the region and their coordinated development in the fields of wine routes, event networks and eco tour routes, which are embodying one of the most important tourism products of the PiP2 area in order to satisfy the needs of sustainable tourism development in the area.</p>	
<p>Contact person: TourInform Mohács, 7700 Mohács, Széchenyi tér 1. Tel: (69) 505-515, (69) 510-113</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

### 3.3 COUNTIES OF CROATIA

#### *OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY*

Analysis of the tourism potential of the County

Osijek-Baranja County is the third of 14 continental counties by the number of overnight stays, which means that it is in the group of continental areas with developed tourism. More overnight stays were recorded only in the City of Zagreb and in Karlovac County. According to data for 2010, there were 159,261 overnight stays, 118,283 of which are residents.

The greatest number of overnight stays was achieved by the town of Osijek (83,839), as the main macro regional centre of the entire eastern Croatia (Slavonia and Baranja). This indicates that town, i.e. business tourism is of greatest importance here. Bizovac (spa) occupies the second position with 24,627 overnight stays. Over 10,000 overnight stays in 2010 were also recorded by towns Našice and Valpovo. Towns Đakovo and Beli Manastir and the municipality of Bilje recorded over 5,000 overnight stays. The main attraction in Bilje is the Nature Park Kopački rit, in addition to a large share of Baranja in rural tourism in general.

Therefore, the main tourism destination in the county is Osijek, and Bizovac spa and special tourism destinations include the remaining six towns in the County - Našice, Valpovo, Beli Manastir, Đakovo, and Donji Miholjac. This also includes the town of Belišće to a lesser extent, which is near and functionally related to a broader destination, Valpovo. The four municipalities along the Danube are in the process of becoming tourism destinations - Bilje, Kneževi Vinogradi, Draž and Erdut, not only according to the achieved tourism turnover, but also due to their rich resources. Municipality of Bilje includes the Nature Park Kopački rit. Municipalities of Kneževi Vinogradi and Draž are mostly involved in wine and rural tourism, and municipality of Erdut has wine and religious tourism (Aljmaš shrine and pilgrim centre).

Based on the above, conclusion can be made that, in addition to city tourism, the most important types of tourism are health and rural tourism and modified forms of eco-tourism (Kopački rit), although their development level is still quite low. General tourism growth in the County and emergence of new accommodation capacities despite the crisis indicate good tourism potentials also in other parts of the County – in the first place wine growing hilly regions (Feričanci and Đakovo wine growing region) and areas along the great rivers, the Danube and the Drava. In addition, some other types of tourism can be found here: - wine, hunting, fishing, cultural tourism, etc.

Major tourism attractions

The most important among major tourism attractions are the Nature Park Kopački rit as one of the most important European wetlands (Ramsar), including the major attraction of the Regional Park Mura Drava, which stretches along the northern border of Croatia, and the historical unit of Tvrđja (Fort) in Osijek, proposed for the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Two most important museums in the County, Museum of Slavonia and Archaeological Museum are also situated here.

The entire area along the Danube, with its many archaeological sites and remnants of fortresses, is of international importance. This area has been also proposed for UNESCO heritage list (Danube limes). Although none of the tangible attractions currently has the world heritage status, “Spring procession from Ljelje or Queen from Gorjani”, in Gorjani near Đakovo, is on the UNESCO list of protected intangible heritage status.

In addition to Tvrdja, Osijek also has a lot of buildings built in the Baroque style, especially around the central town square. Đakovo also offers some attractions from that period. In addition, the two most important sacral buildings in the County should be mentioned here – the famous 83-meter tall Đakovo Cathedral as the most important sacral facility in eastern Croatia, and Osijek Cathedral as the central building of the Osijek town centre.

Among other churches the following ones should be mentioned here: Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Našice with a Franciscan monastery, then a small, but extremely valuable Church of St. Peter and Paul in Topolje, Baranja, which was built by Eugen Savojski, then the Templar Church of St. Martin in Martin near Našice, and a unique All Saints Church in Đakovo which formerly was a mosque. Aljmaš, a small village on the mouth of the river Drava in the Danube with its new church built in an interesting architectural style is known as the major pilgrim centre in eastern Croatia.

Among many preserved castles and fortresses in the County, the following should be mentioned: the castles in Našice and Valpovo that are now used as museums, the castle in Donji Miholjac, and the manors in Bilje and Tikveš (in Baranja). The town of Đakovo is widely known for its stud farm. Among other cultural and historical monuments, there is the Red Army Monument in Batina with a belvedere and a museum above the Danube, and the birth-place of the scientist Milutin Milanković in Dalj.

One of the major attractions in Osijek-Baranja County are its attractive wine growing regions, especially Baranja region with its unique wine cellars that are dug into the hills, near Zmajevac and Suza, and Erdut wine growing region with one of the largest barrels in the world and old fortress on loess slopes above the Danube. Tourism has increasingly developed also in other two wine growing regions in the counties – Feričanci (near Našice) and Đakovo wine growing region.

Osijek-Baranja County is also known for many of its events. The most famous event is Đakovački vezovi (Đakovo Embroideries), Old Sports Olympics in Brođanci and, increasingly, a small and unique Hay Art Festival in Lug, Baranja. Osijek Cultural Summer and Ernestinovo Art Colony should be also mentioned here.

Pannonian Challenge, a recently established event, is also worth mentioning. It is an extreme sport festival, and it is gaining on international importance.

Tourists can also go swimming to Bizovac, the largest spa in the entire eastern Slavonia, to Copacabana swimming pools in Osijek, or to many places on the rivers Drava and Danube. Wetlands around Kopački rit are famous hunting grounds, especially for royal stags. The rivers Drava and Danube, along with Borovik, the largest lake in the County, offer great conditions for fishing. However, both rural tourism and fishing are still underdeveloped in this area.

## Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of Osječko-Baranjska County are:

- Business tourism
- Cultural tourism
- Health tourism
- Hunting tourism
- Rural tourism
- Wine tourism
- Cycling tourism
- Other tourism products, including fishing tourism and environmental tourism that is gaining on popularity, bird- and animal watching (Nature Park Kopački rit, a protected area (Ramsar) and part of the Regional park Mura-Drava).

## Tourism destination

The most important tourism destinations are certainly towns Osijek, Našice, Đakovo, Valpovo and Bizovačke Toplice (spa). Of course, as the area is quite small, large number of tourists visiting NP Kopački rit was recorded during their visit to Osijek or rural farms of Baranja. Being a specific attraction area, Baranja increasingly appears as a separate tourism destination.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Osijek-Baranja County:

Project 1

<p>Project title and location: Adrenaline Park, Osijek</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Construction of an adrenaline park on 35 ha, including a car racing track, tracks for motorbikes, street-race, extreme cycling, artificial climbing rock, etc.; unique attraction in this part of the county aiming at International valorization Amount: € 1,800,000 Duration: 24 months</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Target group: Visitors/Extreme Sport Fans, Tourism stakeholders, wider community Holder: Town Osijek; private sector Partners: -</p>	
<p>Contact person: Ljerka Hedl, Town Osijek, Kuhačeva 9, +385.31.229.292; email: <a href="mailto:ljerka.hedl@osijek.hr">ljerka.hedl@osijek.hr</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information: (challenges, risks, social contribution): originality in the tourism offer in the environment</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Osijek-Baranja County:

Project 2-3

<p>Project title and location: Wine routes of Slavonia</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Construction/reconstruction of about 20 km of wine routes on seven locations in the County; construction of one regional (Osijek, Tvrđa) and four small wine museums (Dalj, Zmajevac, Feričanci, Drenje) and two information points (Đakovo, Beli Mnaštir). Construction of new infrastructure, (museums) reconstruction of the existing touristic infrastructure (wine routes). catering services as well as presenting, tasting of wine Amount: € 1.250.000 Duration: 18 months</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Target group: Tourists, investors, local communities and authorities, private sector</p>	
<p>Contact person: Silva Wendling Osijek, Trg A. Starčevića 1, 31 000 Osijek; +385.31.200.588; email: gospodarstvo@obz.hr</p>	<p>Photo</p>
<p>Other information:</p>	
<p>Project title and location: Building of a passenger port in Batina</p>	
<p>Short description: Building of a passenger river port in Batina with ancillary content, providing access to river cruisers and arrival of about 10,000 foreign tourists to the area of Osijek-Baranja County., that is rich in a unique attractions, including Nature Park Kopački rit, Town Osijek with the fortress, Stud farm in Đakovo, Baranja and Erdut wine route, etc. Amount: € 1.300,000</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: stakeholders of tourism development, local community Partners: Port Authority Vukovar, Tourist board of Osijek-Baranja County; Municipality of Draž</p>	<p>Other relevant information: Promotion of destination, increased touristic demand</p>
<p>Contact: Martin Marolin, head of the Agency; Development Agency Osijek-Baranja County, Radićeva 4, Osijek, Hrvatska; tel: +385.31.221.881; email: <a href="mailto:development@obz.hr">development@obz.hr</a></p>	<p>Other relevant information: Promotion of destination, increased touristic demand</p>

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Osijek-Baranja County:

Project 4-5

<p>Project title and location: Revitalization and buying of the Savojski Castle in Bilje</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: : Revitalization and buying of the Castle of Eugen Savojski with a park in Bilje (18th cent.) as a representative baroque building of great architectural and historical value; Amount: € 1,700,000 Duration: -</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Target group: investors Holder: public sector; private sector; public and private partnership Partners: -</p>	
<p>Contact person: Ružica Bilkić, Kralja Zvonimira 1b; 31 327 Bilje; tel: +385.31.751.400; email: nacelnica@bilje.hr</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Project title and location: Cultural and tourism centre Gorjani</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: preservation of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (2009) An old mill should be reconstructed for accommodation, informing and education of tourists and for work and promotion of the traditional autochthonous annual event “Spring procession from Ljelje or Queen from Gorjani”. The event takes place in spring, and it consists of ritual folk dancing from this area. Amount: € 270,000 Duration: 12 months</p>	
<p>Stakeholders: Holder: Cultural Association “Gorjanac”, Gorjani Partners: Municipality of Gorjani</p>	
<p>Contact person: Ivan Lović, mayor of Gorjani; Kula 1; 31 422 Gorjani; +385.31.853.421; email: opcinago@inet.hr</p>	
<p>Other relevant information: In combination with the existing attractions, (Stud farm, architectural heritage and wine routes of Đakovo) conditions are created for strengthening of private sector in tourism</p>	

## *VUKOVAR-SRIJEM COUNTY*

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the County

In relation to the “blue” Croatia, Vukovar-Srijem County is an underdeveloped area of continental Croatia in terms of the tourism offer, ranking 8th of total 14 continental counties. Although this does not sound much at first, considering the distance from the main tourism routes and its less attractive plain landscape, these results are not that bad, especially taking into account a significant growth in the past two years. According to data for 2010, in Vukovar-Srijem County there were 68,383 overnight stays, 50,983 of which were residents.

The major tourism destination is the town of Vinkovci as the largest town in the county and an important traffic hub. It recorded 41,867 overnight stays, and it is followed by Vukovar, the second town by size and the seat of the county, with 18,045 overnight stays in 2010. More than 1,000 overnight stays was recorded only by the third and the fourth town in the County, Ilok (5,319) and Županja (2,664) respectively, while the remaining town of Otok, the smallest and the newest town in the County, recorded only 115 overnight stays. In addition, a lower number of overnight stays was also recorded by the municipalities Vrbanja, Bošnjaci and Ivankaovo, mostly owing to their position next to the main traffic route of the County, the A3 highway on the Paneuropean Corridor X, along the Sava river basin. The above data point to the conclusion that the prevailing form of tourism is city tourism, i.e. business tourism.

In addition to this dominant type of tourism, there is also cultural tourism, so-called “war” tourism, then wine and transit tourism and river cruising, and also to a lesser extent, rural hunting and fishing tourism. General growth of tourism in the County and appearance of new accommodation facilities despite the crisis indicate good tourism potential, especially in rural and cultural tourism (particularly the one based on rich architectural heritage), and tourism based on natural attractions – Ilok wine growing area, the river Danube, and large preserved forest and wetland areas suitable for fishing and hunting.

In the past few year so-caller river cruising is gaining on importance in Vukovar-Srijem County, facilitated by a river harbor for passenger boats in Vukovar. The number of visitors is estimated at 20 thousand per year.

### Major attractions

In terms of tourism attractions, locations related to war destruction in Vukovar – Memorial area Ovčara with an obelisk, war victims memorial cemetery, the Water tower and the Cross at the mouth of the river Vuka in the Danube are the most popular attractions. Rich archaeological heritage also offers great opportunities. The archaeological site Sopot near Vinkovci is currently the only one that is suitable for visitors, while the site Vučedol next to Vukovar is of great importance, but still incomplete.

In addition to the picturesque town of Ilok that is situated on a hill above the Danube, town centres of Vinkovci and Vukovar, recently restored to a certain extent, attract with their level of preservation and attractive sights. The major sacral facilities in the County can be also found here: the Church of St. John of Capistrano in Ilok, the Church of St. Philip and Jacob and the Franciscan monastery in Vukovar, and the Church of St. Eusebius and St. Pollio and

the Church of St. Eliah (Meraja) in Vinkovci. There is also the Church of St. Peter with Carmelite monastery and a unique Church of St. Luke (Lučica) in Lipovac. A small village of Ilača is a Marian shrine of Our Lady. It is situated east of Vinkovci and it is the major pilgrim centre in the County.

Major cultural and historical monuments include the Eltz Castle in Vukovar and the birth place of the Nobel Prize winner, Lavoslav Ružička, and the Odescalchi Castle in Ilok, both now turned into museums. The town of Vinkovci offers Archaeological and Ethnic Park Sopot with reconstructed prehistoric houses, and the Town Museum, rich in archaeological heritage. Županja is known for its Watch-Tower (čardak) on the river Sava, and the smallest town in this region, Otok, is the place where you can visit a unique well-preserved mill powered by horses. Major attractions include Iločki podrumi as the central point of Ilok wine growing region and a recently restored manor, Principovac.

Vukovar-Srijem County is also known for many events, from the traditional ones offering folk tradition (Vinkovačke jeseni and Županjsko sijelo) to the cultural ones, such as Vukovar film festival and Actors Festival in Vinkovci. Vast wetland forest of Spačva and wetlands Virovi near the settlements Otok and Bošnjaci offer great opportunities for fishing and hunting. They are underdeveloped, and the same can be said for the potential of rural tourism in many villages known for preservation of old folk customs and culinary specialties.

#### Tourism products

According to the analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators in the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of Vukovar-Srijem County are:

- Cultural tourism
- Wine tourism
- Cycling tourism
- River cruising
- Business tourism
- Rural tourism
- Other tourism products which include fishing and hunting tourism

#### Tourism destination

Accordingly, the two main tourism destinations in Vukovar-Srijem County are the two of its largest towns, Vinkovci and Vukovar, and, to a lesser extent, towns Ilok and Županja. Although all four towns offer typical city tourism, each of them also has a specific component. In Vukovar so-called war tourism can be found, which includes visiting the site of the Battle of Vukovar and Vukovar – a hero town, as Vukovar suffered the greatest damage during the Homeland War. Vukovar is also the only Croatian port on the Danube. The most eastern Croatian town, Ilok, offers great attractions, cultural and historical heritage and rich wine-growing tradition in attractive Ilok wine growing region, while good position next to the highway on the Corridor X and the border toward Bosnia and Herzegovina plays a special role in Županja.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Vukovar-Srijem County

Project 1-2

<p>Project title and location: Tourism and recreational resort Danube, Vukovar</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Modern recreational resort in eastern Croatia, based on the Danube and natural and cultural heritage of the environment Major attractions: 1./ hotel resort with 350 beds,, modern wellness facilities, swimming pools, golf courses, horse-riding sports, and other sport, recreational and catering services 2./ marina (dock, mooring, maintenance, beach); 3 common facilities (promenades, cycling and trim paths) Amount: about € 50.000.000</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, investor(s); local community</p>	
<p>Contact person: Gabrijela Žalac, Vukovar-Srijem County; Županijska 9; 32 000 Vukovar; <a href="tel:+38532454605">tel: +385.32.454.605</a>; email: <a href="mailto:vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr">vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information: (challenges, risks, social contribution): a new and unique mix-product that combines different tourism products; destination promotion</p>	
:	
<p>Project title and location: Spa-centre Babina Greda Babina Greda,</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Construction of a health centre with thermal water, available throughout the year, based on thermal and medical springs, accommodation capacities, sport and recreational facilities, catering, commercial and conference facilities, Amount: about € 20,000,000</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Target group: Tourists, tourism stakeholders Partners: -</p>	
<p>Contact person: Gabrijela Žalac, Vukovar-Srijem County; Županijska 9; 32 000 Vukovar; <a href="tel:+38532454605">tel: +385.32.454.605</a>; email: <a href="mailto:vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr">vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information (challenges, risks, social contribution): strengthening tourism offer in Vukovar-Srijem County by introducing a new tourism product; multiple benefits from thermal springs (agriculture, electricity and heat energy)</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Vukovar-Srijem County

Project 3-4

<p>Project title and location: Archaeological and Tourism Park VUČEDOL</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Reconstruction and revitalisation of the area on the right river bank of the Danube, including islands and three settlements/sites of findings from a pre-historical culture named Vučedol; construction of swimming pools, sport facilities, catering facilities and reconstruction of existing historical buildings Amount: € 13,000,000</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, investors, scientific community Holder: Vukovar-Srijem County; private sector Partner: Croatian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism</p>	
<p>Contact person: Gabrijela Žalac, Vukovar-Srijem County; Županijska 9; 32 000 Vukovar; <a href="tel:+38532454605">tel: +385.32.454.605</a>; email: <a href="mailto:vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr">vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	
<p>Project title and location: Reconstruction and revitalisation of the castle and the garden in Nuštar</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Protection and valorisation of cultural heritage Reconstruction and revitalisation of the Gosseau castle and the garden in Nušta, as a representative building in Baroque style, of great architectural and historical value; project also envisages additional tourism and commercial facilities, recreational centre and a museum Amount: € 40,000,000 Duration: n/a</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Cultural and scientific community, local community Holder: Vukovar-Srijem County; private sector Partners: Croatian Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, private sector ; Municipality of Nuštar</p>	
<p>Contact person: Gabrijela Žalac, Vukovar-Srijem County; Županijska 9; 32 000 Vukovar; <a href="tel:+38532454605">tel: +385.32.454.605</a>; email: <a href="mailto:vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr">vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information (challenges, risks, social contribution): Protection of European cultural heritage</p>	

<p>Project title and location: Tourism and historical centre in Sopot /umbrella tourist product/  Vinkovci, Vukovar-Srijem County, Republic of Croatia</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Development of tourism infrastructure in existing archaeological park to create a tourism and historical centre Activities: construction of access infrastructure in the area of the Archaeological park Sopot (access roads, car park, street lights); reconstruction of the Bosut river bank, promenade and educational paths and construction of horse-riding trails; museum construction; creating a unique tourism and historical centre that will offer historical, educational and entertainment tourism activities Amount: € 11,000,000 Duration: n/a</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Target group: Tourists, tourism stakeholders, scientific community, local community Holder: Vukovar-Srijem County; private sector Partners: units of local self-government</p>	
<p>Contact person: Gabrijela Žalac, Vukovar-Srijem County; Županijska 9; 32 000 Vukovar; <a href="tel:+385.32.454.605">tel:+385.32.454.605</a>; email: <a href="mailto:vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr">vsz-ei@vu.t-com.hr</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information (challenges, risks, social contribution): promotion of Croatia cultural heritage and new destinations in the tourism offer of continental Croatia and this part of Europe</p>	

### 3.4 COUNTIES OF SERBIA

#### *WEST BAČKA DISTRICT*

Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

Comparing to the tourists' visits in 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, West Backa District has been in the penultimate place, referring the aspect of tourists' arrivals, while it has been in the 19th place for the tourists overnight stays. Tables below present the above given data for the period of the year 2009. Most of overnight stays have been recorded in the municipality of Apatin (52.926) that is Junakovic Spa close to Apatin, which means that spa and health tourism has the greatest importance for tourism. It can be seen the importance of city and culture tourism of the City of Sombor, although one of significant aspects of touristic offer of Sombor are farms in its surroundings. That is why the rural tourism can be induced as the key product of the City of Sombor and West Backa District in general.

In the tables below is a presentation of the selected performance indicators of the tourism sector of West Backa district for the period from 2005 to 2009.

Table 1. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds by municipalities and cities in West Backa District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Apatin	9.360	2.290	52.926	7.695	398
Kula	2.053	719	3.076	1.469	117
Odžaci	0	0	0	0	55
Sombor- grad	7.366	2.110	16.104	4.716	461
West Backa District	18.799	5.119	72.106	13.890	1.031
The Republic of Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 2. Overnight stays trends on the territory of West Backa District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Apatin	52.501	38.144	49.368	60.152	52.926
Kula	6.006	4.346	4.772	3.817	3.076
Odžaci	0	0	0	0	0
Sombor- grad	23.365	25.403	42.770	25.786	16.104
West Backa District	81.872	67.893	96.910	89.755	72.106
The Republic of Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.522	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

## Major tourism attractions

Among single tourism attractions here is a special place left for Junakovic Spa, a popular healing place and a spa. An important tourist attraction is an archeological locality “Donja Branjevina”, which hides a secret of the oldest agricultural culture in Europe. „A redhead goddess“, is the most important discovery of this locality. This statuette, with its value and significance, put the municipality of Odzaci at the archeological map of Europe. Special nature reserves “Upper Podunavlje” has the international importance. Upper podunavlje is one of a rare destinations where one can enjoy a ride on the Danube, its note less canals and branches, free deer roar, peaceful nights in village houses, authentic fish dishes, and the last Danube anglers. A diapason of tourism attractions fulfill numerous sacral objects, specially concentrated in Sombor and Odzaci. West Backa District has been famous for many manifestations, culture ones above all, then traditional and sports ones.

## Tourism products:

The analysis of tourism potentials, existing attraction basics and the selected tourism sector indicators, we can conclude that the most important tourism products of West Backa District are:

- Medical and healing tourism
- City tourism
- Cultural tourism
- Rural tourism
- Nautical tourism

## Tourism destinations

Among the most important tourism destinations there is the City of Sombor with a rich offer of the monuments of culture, culture and sports events, then Junakovic Spa, the City of Odzaci, as well as a special nature reservation “ Upper Podunavlje “ presenting often as a special tourism destination.

Among the most important tourism destinations there is the City of Sombor with a rich offer of the monuments of culture, culture and sports events, then Junakovic Spa, the City of Odzaci, as well as a special nature reservation “ Upper Podunavlje “ presenting often as a special tourism destination.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in West Bačka:

Project 1-2

<p>Project title: Marina of Apatin Project location: Serbia, West Bačka Administrative District, Apatin</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Building 30 pontoons by using floating concrete according to Swedish technology methods. Marina includes nautical club, office of the tourist agency Apatin, restaurant with a terrace, 8 apartments, and 10 public baths. Amount: € 3.500.000 Duration: 2006-2009.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: tourists, investor(s); local community Holder: public sector Partners: Municipality of Apatin; the project was funded through several stages: EU, national and regional level.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Ljiljana Bursać, West Bačka Administrative District; Srpskih Vladara 29; 25 260 Apatin; <a href="tel:+38125772122">tel:+38125772122</a>; email: <a href="mailto:ljiljana_bursac1@yahoo.com">ljiljana_bursac1@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Other important information</p>	
<p>Project title: Anchorage for passenger ships Apatin; Project location: Serbia, West Bačka Administrative District, Apatin</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Building of a new anchorage for passenger ship; Activities: project envisages building of anchorage according to highest standards and recommendations included in the Master Plan for the Development of Tourism in Apatin and the Upper Danubian Region (Gornje Podunavlje); Amount: €650.000 Duration: 2008-2009</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Tourists, investor(s); local community Holder: Municipality of Apatin Partners: Municipality of Apatin; the project is funded by EU, national-.regional institutions.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Ljiljana Bursać, West Bačka Administrative District; Srpskih Vladara 29; 25 260 Apatin; <a href="tel:+38125772122">tel:+38125772122</a>; email: <a href="mailto:ljiljana_bursac1@yahoo.com">ljiljana_bursac1@yahoo.com</a></p>	

## *SOUTH BAČKA DISTRICT*

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

With respect to 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, South Backa District is on the fourth place in referring to the number of tourists and on the tenth place regarding the number of overnight stays. This indicates that South Backa District is the area with developed tourism, although considering its great tourism potentials, there is a lot of space for improvement. According to data for 2009, which can be seen in the tables below, there were 200.857 overnight stays, 46% of which (92.281) were residents. The greatest number of overnight stays was recorded in the city of Novi Sad (167.253), the capital of the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina and the administrative centre of the district, which points to the conclusion that city, business tourism and MICE are of the greatest importance here. The second place is occupied by Vrbas (11.226 overnight stays) and the third by Becej (10.744 overnight stays).

Therefore, the main tourism destination in the district is Novi Sad with its numerous cultural and historical monuments (Petrovaradin Fortress), events (EXIT festival) and various other attractions. This area is very famous for its castles (Dundjerski castle), farms and ethno houses, which offer traditional dishes and drinks, especially in the last few years, which puts rural tourism on the very top of the list. In addition, cultural tourism is quite developed because of a vast number of monasteries and churches. Sremski Karlovci is a small city very attractive for the visitors because of its rich history and wine cellars.

The tables below provide account of selected performance indicators of the tourism sector on the territory of South Backa District for the period 2005-2009.

Table 4. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds by municipalities and cities in South Backa District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Bac	-	-	-	-	56
Backa Palanka	2.585	1.416	5.699	3.339	123
Backi Petrovac	-	-	-	-	-
Beocin	-	-	-	-	128
Becej	3.609	579	10.744	1.015	142
Vrbas	7.520	1.965	11.226	2.456	306
Zabalj	-	-	-	-	-
City of Novi Sad	86.920	46.054	167.253	100.174	2.896
Srbobran	-	-	-	-	110
Sremski Karlovci	1.641	543	3.243	991	44
Temerin	69	1	80	1	28
Titel	1.198	197	2.612	600	15
<b>South Backa District</b>	<b>103.542</b>	<b>50.755</b>	<b>200.857</b>	<b>108.576</b>	<b>3.848</b>
<b>Serbia</b>	<b>2.018.466</b>	<b>645.022</b>	<b>6.761.715</b>	<b>1.469.102</b>	<b>116.182</b>

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 5. Overnight stays trends on the territory of South Backa District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Bac	872	937	-	-	-
Backa Palanka	6.584	8.831	8.557	10.226	5.699
Backi Petrovac	-	-	-	-	-
Beocin	-	-	-	-	-
Becej	11.204	9.717	13.068	9.308	10.744
Vrbas	14.593	22.055	19.354	17.635	11.226
Zabalj	-	-	-	-	-
City of Novi Sad	128.631	146.951	183.461	191.863	167.253
Srbobran	-	-	-	-	-
Sremski Karlovci	59	-	-	-	3.243
Temerin	384	418	222	543	80
Titel	-	-	-	10.823	2.612
South Backa District	162.327	188.909	224.662	240.401	200.857
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

#### Major tourism attractions

South Backa District is characterized by significant tourism potential and great opportunities for further tourism development as well.

As the result of the rich and turbulent history of this region, which has been a major crossroad on the Balkans over the centuries, there are numerous cultural and historical monuments, and certainly one of the most important is Petrovaradin Fortress on the Danube banks in Novi Sad. There are 6 museums in the District, 20 galleries and 11 theaters, which are typical mainly for big cities (Novi Sad).

Also, there are 16 cultural sites of exceptional importance, some of which are worth mentioning - the city centre of Sremski Karlovci, Congregation Church and Patriarch's Palace in Sremski Karlovci, the Place of the 1699 Treaty of Karlowitz, Almaska Church in Novi Sad, Rakovac, Beocin and Bodjani Monastery etc. Furthermore, Fruska Gora Mountain is known as the Serbian Holy Mountain because of its complex of Orthodox monasteries and temples. In addition to religious architecture, there are authentic houses in Nestin and Backi Petrovac protected by law.

As an important element of natural heritage, there are three large-extension special reserves of nature in South Backa District - National Park Fruska Gora, Special Nature Reserve Karadjordjevo and Special Nature Reserve Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski rit, while the biggest number of small-scale protected areas (under 1,000 ha) can be found here as well.

Apart from its cultural attractions, with its availability and numerous attractions Fruska Gora attracts large numbers of people. In this region, there is a tradition and culture activities in nature, so that the most beautiful parts of Fruska gora established resorts, marked trails and mountain lodges built, given the size and concentration of attractiveness. Very important tour-

ism offer in this part of Danube Section Area are events, the biggest and the most popular is EXIT music festival in Novi Sad, at Petrovaradin Fortress, announced as the best music festival of this kind in Southeast Europe. South Backa District is famous for the farms, authentic houses that is well kept and are representing a real gem of the region's tourism offer. Farms are tourist attractions and accommodation facilities suitable for spending time outdoors. One of the major attractions in the District are its attractive wine growing regions in Sremski Karlovci, with its unique wine cellars that are dug into the hills on the slopes of Fruska Gora Mountain above Danube. Sremski Karlovci gained its fame primarily due to their vineyards and wines that were drunk all over Europe.

### Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of South Backa District are:

- Business tourism,
- Cultural tourism,
- Rural tourism,
- Wine tourism.

### Tourism destinations

The most important tourist destination in South Backa District is certainly Novi Sad, the capital of the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina and the administrative centre of the district. It attracts tourist attention and has quite high concentration of tourist visits which shows that Novi Sad is not only important tourism destination in the district, but also in the whole Vojvodina region. Sremski Karlovci is another destination, very popular among tourists with an outstanding tourist potential, but still characterized by underdeveloped tourist infrastructure.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in South Banka District:

Project 1

<p>Project title: Renovation and reconstruction of the old ship lock in Bečej with the creation of museum exhibition in the space of the turbine room Project location: Serbia, South Bačka Administrative District, Bečej</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Complete restoration of the lock in Bečej Activities: adaption of rooms to museum needs and assembling the exhibits; installing electricity and ventilation; reconstruction of the old fuse-box and missing machine parts; establishing connections with tourist organizations from Bečej to attract visitors; Amount: € 8.000.000 Duration: 3 years</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: tourist organization, transport, water ways, economy Target group: experts, students, tourists, citizens Holder: public</p> <p>Partners: Public water management company "Vode Vojvodine" Novi Sad, the community of Bečej, Tourist organisation of Bečej</p>	
<p>Contact person: Svetlana Bakić; South Bačka Administrative District; 21 000 Novi Sad, Štros Majerova 22; <a href="mailto:pzzzsk@open.telekom.rs">pzzzsk@open.telekom.rs</a>; +381216432576</p>	
<p>Other relevant information (challenges, risks, social contribution): the formation of an archive and documentation base which will be available to museums and experts and researchers from Hungary and Serbia;</p>	

### *MIDDLE BANAT DISTRICT*

#### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

With respect to 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, Middle Banat District is on the twenty-first place referring to the number of tourists and on the nineteenth place regarding the number of overnight stays. This indicates that Middle Banat District is the area with low development of tourism, with good tourism potentials, but for a lot of space for improvement.

According to data for 2009, which can be seen in the tables below, there were 80.231 overnight stays, 75.89% of which (60.890) were by residents.

The greatest number of overnight stays was recorded in the City of Zrenjanin (62.251), which points to the conclusion that the City of Zrenjanin and its surrounding is the main tourism destination in the District. The second place is occupied by the Municipality of Novi Bečej (9.915 overnight stays) and the third by the Municipality of Sečanj (3.620 overnight stays).

This is leading to the conclusion that except city tourism in this district is the most developed rural and event tourism, and also eco tourism.

Table 7. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds by municipalities and cities in Middle Banat District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Žitište	976	127	3.183	147	
City of Zrenjanin	16.271	5.589	62.257	17.852	
Nova Crnja	431	85	1.258	181	
Novi Bečej	2.840	377	9.915	924	
Sečanj	788	107	3.620	237	
Middle Banat District	21.306	6.285	80.233	19.341	
Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 8. Overnight stays trends on the territory of Middle Banat District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Žitište	12.522	9.211	6.691	2.714	3.183
City of Zrenjanin	70.348	71.250	32.378	74.643	62.257
Nova Crnja	421	1.048	1.487	1.443	1.258
Novi Bečej	10.456	9.802	12.919	11.669	9.915
Sečanj	0	0	2.456	3221	3.620
Middle Banat District	93.747	91311	55931	93690	80.233
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

## Major tourism attractions

Banja Rusanda takes a special place among single tourist attractions. It is the only active medical spa in Banat with a Special hospital for physical medicine and rehabilitation with around 400 beds in several pavilions and private accommodation

Special nature reserve “ Carska bara“ has the international importance. It is habitat for 240 rare bird species, 130 of which are stationary birds and 110 are migratory birds. This is why this reserve has been one of the most important stops for birds in Europe. Nature values of this reserve have helped it to be included in the Ramsar, IBA and IPA lists of districts.

“Eco-Ethno complex Carska Bara – Belo Blato “ with Ethno center has become even more important tourism attraction. This centre consists of the Ethno house, Ethno yard, Ethno classroom, Ethno souvenirs shop and The International exploration centre.

There is a great number of the attractive sacral buildings in Middle Banat District. As the oldest one, there is The Roman Catholic Church of St. Archangel Michael – Araca, near Novi Becej. There is one of the buildings kept overall and that is The Temple of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God in Zenjanin.

Three attractive castles fulfill the offer of the district. In the first place there is Hunting castle “ Kastel “ in Ecka, erected in 1820 in the English style.

Middle Banat District offers different events, especially the cultural and gastronomic ones. On the list of international cultural events, the best known are International choir festival “ Cantemus “ and International festival of folk dance “ Tulip “, and in the area of gastronomy there are The World Championship in cooking shipyard’s stew in Melenci, “Beer days “ in Zrenjanin and the new and very visited one „Chicken Fest “ in Zitiste.

## Tourism products:

The analysis of tourism potentials, existing attraction basics and the selected tourism sector indicators, we can conclude that the most important tourism products of Middle Banat District are:

- Medical and healing tourism
- Eco tourism
- Sightseeing tourism
- City tourism
- Cultural tourism

## Tourism destinations

Among the most important tourism destinations there is the City of Zrenjanin with a rich offer of the monuments of culture and culture events, then Melence Spa, as well as the special nature reserve “Stari Becej – Carska Bara “ presenting often as a special tourism destination.

## SREM DISTRICT

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

With respect to 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, Srem District is on the twelfth place referring to the number of tourists and on the sixteenth place regarding the number of overnight stays. This indicates that Srem District is the area with medium development of tourism, with good tourism potentials, but still there is a lot of space for improvement. The greatest number of overnight stays was recorded in the Municipality of Irig (71.573), which points to the conclusion that eco-tourism, cultural tourism (there are 16 monasteries on Fruška gora, the most of them are located in the Municipality of Irig) and rural tourism on Fruška gora mountain have the greatest importance here. The second place is occupied by the Municipality of Indija (15.480 overnight stays) and the third by the Municipality of Sid (9.175 overnight stays). There is a wide range of cultural and historical sites (the most important is archeological site Sirmium in Sremska Mitrovica and above mentioned monasteries on Fruška Gora Mountain), rural households, wineries and farms in this district, so rural and cultural tourism are of high importance here.

Table 10. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds by municipalities and cities in Srem District in 2009.

Town/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Indjija	6.390	1.434	15.480	3.896	199
Irig	17.219	1.765	71.573	4.709	559
Pecinci	499	16	923	19	34
Ruma	1.076	116	1.430	167	197
City of Sremska Mitrovica	4.092	1.392	6.487	2.056	212
Stara Pazova	702	325	2.024	484	59
Sid	6.930	1.725	9.175	1.975	246
Syrmia District	36.908	6.773	107.092	13.306	1.506
Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 11. Overnight stay trends on the territory of Srem District for the period 2005-2009.

Town/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Indjija	2.373	1.123	6.564	15.131	15.480
Irig	62.550	75.847	79.627	85.794	71.573
Pecinci	932	735	534	715	923
Ruma	7.248	4.323	4.720	3.273	1.430
City of Sremska Mitrovica	19.627	11.566	11.724	14.532	6.487
Stara Pazova	3.895	2.178	3.634	3.622	2.024
Sid	2.479	2.398	15.157	13.841	9.175
Syrmia District	99.104	98.170	121.960	136.908	107.092
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

## Major tourism attraction

The most important tourism attractions are among the National Park “Fruška gora” such as monasteries, rural households, wineries and ethno houses. In the Srem District there are 121 cultural monuments of high importance (which have national importance) and 27 cultural monuments of exceptional importance.

The most important archeological sites and cultural monuments for cultural tourism offer is Sirmium. Sremska Mitrovica is one of the oldest cities in Europe. Archaeologists have found a trace of organized human life dating from the 5000 BC onwards.

In the Srem District, as it was mentioned, important cultural tourism offer are representing famous Monasteries from Fruška gora Mountain and numerous churches, which are classified as monuments of exceptional and high importance. It should be mentioned monasteries: Kuveždin, Divša, Šišatovac, Krušedol, Jazak, Velika Remeta, Grgeteg, Novo Hopovo, Staro Hopovo, Ravanica, which are concentrated most in the Municipality of Irig

There is a great potential for spa and wellness tourism development. In this area are two rehabilitation centers “Dr Borivoje Gnjatić” Specialty Hospital for Neurological Diseases and Post-traumatic Conditions in Stari Slankamen and “Termal” Specialty Rehabilitation Hospital in Vrdnik.

One of the major attractions in Srem District are its attractive wine growing regions, especially municipality of Irig and Erdevik in the Municipality of Šid, which have unique wine cellars, famous and good wines. Srem District is also known for many of its typical products. Srem District is famous by fruit producing and brandy producing. Also, tourists should taste Sremski kulen (Srem sausage), cheese and other gastronomic specialties.

## Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of Srem District are:

- Cultural tourism
- Rural tourism
- Health tourism
- Tourism of special interest.

## Tourism destination

The most important tourism destination is certainly NP “Fruška gora”. With all its attractions such are: monasteries, rural households, wineries Fruška gora Mountain is very attractive to tourist. Also it should be emphasized that Irig and its surrounding are becoming important tourism destination, because it is obvious that tourist arrivals are increased in last few years. In the municipality of Indija could be noticed drastic increase of overnight stays, that originate in last two years, and which is increased almost three times, compared to previous years.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Srem District

Project 1

<p>Project title: Building theme museum “Loessland” Project location: Stari Slankamen, Municipality of Indjija, Vojvodina, Serbia</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic:</p>
<p>Short description. Goal: formation of an attractive, competitive tourism product that would be essential for growth of tourism in the Old Slankamen and ensure economic prosperity of a given area through the development of tourism; protection and preservation of the loess profile; Activities: development of technical project documentation; expropriation of land and resolution of legal property status; Amount: €5.000.000 Duration: 2 years</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: local community, scientific institutions Target group: Domestic and foreign tourists, scientists, students Holder: Tourist organization of the Municipality of Indjija Partners: University of Novi Sad - Faculty of natural sciences and mathematics</p>	
<p>Contact person: Paško Boris, director of Tourist organization of the municipality of Indjija +381 22 510 970 <a href="mailto:boris.pasko@indjija.net">boris.pasko@indjija.net</a></p>	

### *SOUTH BANAT DISTRICT*

#### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

South Banat District is on the seventeenth place by tourist flow, out of 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, in terms of tourist arrivals, while is in the 22nd place referring to overnight stays. These data were observed in 2009 and can be seen in the following tables. The fact is that these are quite unfavorable data's, viewed from the aspect of indicators of overall tourism potential and attractions of South Banat district. The most of overnight stays were realized in the Municipality of Vrsac (36.937), which representing 67.38% of the total number of overnight stays, throughout the South Banat district, and it means that the greatest importance for tourism of South Banat District are city tourism, events and wine routes in the Municipality of Vrsac. The second largest number of overnight stays was in the Municipality of Kovačica, where has been achieved 6.087 overnights and third was in the Municipality of Bela Crkva with accomplished 4.859 overnight stays and where is good development of bathing tourism on the lakes.

The tables below provide account of selected performance indicators of the tourism sector on the territory of South Banat District for the period 2005-2009.

Table 13. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds by municipalities and cities in South Banat District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Alibunar	292	29	626	31	148
Bela Crkva	2.269	201	4.859	314	589
Vršac	17.148	5.197	36.937	14.229	549
Kovačica	2.619	645	6.087	1.645	21
Kovin	0	0	0	0	595
Opovo	492	49	724	157	0
Pančevo- city	2.528	752	4.217	1.466	1.239
Plandište	133	31	1.369	350	28
Južnobanatski okrug	25.481	6.904	54.819	18.192	3.169
Republika Srbija	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 14. Overnight stays trends on the territory of South Banat District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Alibunar	0	0	836	390	626
Bela Crkva	6.427	3.817	2.282	7.900	4.859
Vršac	34.077	30.898	31.081	36.346	36.937
Kovačica	0	0	0	0	6.087
Kovin	0	0	0	0	0
Opovo	0	0	0	0	724
Pančevo- city	19.759	12.437	13.924	12.351	4.217
Plandište	2.864	2.661	927	1.429	1.369
South Banat District	63.127	49.813	49.050	58.416	54.819
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.522	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

#### Major tourism attractions

Among the tourist attractions of South Banat District a special place has Deliblatska pescara (Deliblato Sand), which is a unique phenomenon in Europe, and once was called the European Sahara, or "the oldest desert in Europe." This monument which represents the natural history of the Pannonian Plain is one of the few shelters for many specific types of flora and fauna, and in European and global scale is hosting natural rarities. Within this protected complex there is a large ethno village which consists of five farms, and hunting ground Deliblatska pescara. Hunting ground is located in Southern Banat and is surrounded by three rivers: the Danube, Tamiš and Karas.

Tourist attractions of international importance are the archaeological sites in the city of Pancevo and its surrounding. It is the remains of the culture of the early Neolithic to the middle Ages. As the largest archaeological site stands, "Starčevo City", cultural property of great importance, which is on the left bank of the Danube River, northwest of the village Starčevo and 8 kilometers southeast of Pancevo. Because of the extreme importance of the findings discovered in this locality, the older Neolithic culture in the area central Balkans, was named "Starčevo culture". There are also archaeological sites Židovar. A very popular tourist attraction of South Backa District is a picturesque town of Bela Crkva with wonderful crystal clear lakes, of which seven of them are good for swimming. Bela Crkva is highlighted with the wide selection of water sports.

Tourist attractions on national level are numerous churches and other monuments of religious architecture. Notable among them is the Church of the Transfiguration in Pancevo, built by the 1874th to the 1888th. This church is an example of the harmonious eclecticism, in which are overlapping the elements of Byzantine, Serbian, Romanian and Renaissance style. There is also the Monastery Mesic, a nunnery of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the Diocese of Banat. It is one of the most important monasteries in the Southeast Banat, probably originated in the fifteenth century, but according to local legend was founded in 1225th.

Vojlovica Monastery is located northeast of Pancevo, 4 kilometers from the confluence of the Tamiš and Danube. Vrsacki vineyards are a great attraction of wine tourism.

## Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of South Banat District are:

- Cultural tourism
- Sport tourism
- City tourism
- Events
- Wine tourism

## Tourism destinations

The most important tourism destinations of the South Banat Districts are Bela Crkva, Vrsac and Pancevo, with its offer of excursions and cultural tourism. As more and more interesting tourist destinations are appearing Deliblatska pescara and Vrsac Mountains, the only mountain system in the whole region of Banat, and which is, by the Fruska gora mountain, the most important mountain elevation in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

## *THE CITY OF BELGRADE DISTRICT*

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

With respect to 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, The City of Belgrade District is on the first place in referring to the number of tourists and regarding the number of overnight stays. This indicates that The City of Belgrade District is the area with the most developed tourism, with differentiated tourism products and great tourism potentials for investments.

The greatest number of overnight stays that was recorded in the City of Belgrade (1.186.867), points to the conclusion that city break, business tourism and M.I.C.E. are of the greatest importance here. Therefore, as the capital and main tourism destination in the Republic of Serbia, the City of Belgrade, has numerous cultural and historical monuments (Belgrade Fortress, Zemun, Skadarlija Street and many others), events (Belgrade beer festival, BEMUS, etc) and various other attractions.

To conclusion, apart from city break, business and M.I.C.E. tourism which is dominant in the City of Belgrade District, other most important types of tourism are cultural, as well as its gastronomic offer and events. Ever increasing number of tourists and overnight stays indicate great tourism potentials and positive trends regarding tourism development in the City of Belgrade.

The tables below provide account of selected performance indicators of the tourism sector on the territory of the City of Belgrade District for the period 2005-2009.

Table 16. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds in the City of Belgrade District in 2009.

City	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
City of Belgrade	576.540	362.212	1.186.867	812.803	15.892
Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 17. Overnight stay trends on the territory of the City of Belgrade District for the period 2005-2009.

City	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
City of Belgrade	1.183.306	1.164.589	1.351.143	1.232.624	1.186.867
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

### Major tourism attractions

Belgrade is the city of youth. More than 40% of its citizens are between 15 and 44 years of age. All citizens of Belgrade love to talk of the spirit of the city. Open and ever ready for fun, many people from Belgrade will claim to be true hedonists – and many of them really are - knowing all there is to know about good food, wine and music.

Belgrade has around 50 hotels, a number of motels and campsites and about 60 hostels. The main cultural entities in Belgrade are: Belgrade fortress, Skadarlija Street and town nearby Zemun. A visit to the museums of Belgrade represents a walk through entire epochs, providing a view of the rise of a city and its transformation through time and circumstance. The rich collections of Belgrade museums were created during the 19th and 20th century. Private collections of wealthy families make up a considerable part of the treasures kept in the museums of Belgrade today. Legacies of artists, collectors and those who left their mark in the cultural, scientific and public life are also significant.

Belgrade has 300 cultural monuments, 57 of those being of exceptional and grand importance to the culture of Serbia and Belgrade. The monuments of special importance are the Belgrade Fortress, the Cathedral Church, the Monument to the Unknown Hero on Avala, the monument marking the place of the death of Despot Stefan Lazarević (Crkvine at Mladenovac), the Graveyard of the Liberators of Belgrade, the Late Roman Tomb in Brestovik, the Adobe Church in Vranić, the Birth House of Vojvoda Stepa Stepanović, the Residence of Princess Ljubica and Captain Miša's Mansion. Despite the destruction Belgrade underwent, a large number of valuable architectural monuments resisted the mark of time and the events from the tumultuous past of the city.

Belgrade is proud of its parks, greenery and alleys. The parks of Belgrade become places for rest and relaxation during the spring, they are refuges from the heat and city bustle during summers and they are there in the autumn to pacify before the oncoming winter. Danube and Sava, the two exciting Belgrade rivers, frame a portrait of this city and give it its character. If they could speak, they would tell an infinite tale of the building and destruction, everyday lives of former and current citizens of Belgrade, of nameless acts of kindness, love and courage. Danube and Sava provide hospitality for sixteen river islands, the most famous being Ada Ciganlija and the Great War Island. The banks of the rivers are full of footpaths, rafts, restaurants, cafes and clubs, sports centers, playgrounds, cycling paths. Avala is a mountain for walks, rest and relaxation in nature. It is located 16 kilometers south of Belgrade.

The exciting nightlife of Belgrade is gaining momentum. Belgrade is said to be the new capital of cool, the place where the best nightlife in Europe is happening. Bars, clubs, rafts and casinos work every day of the week.

Tourism products:

- Business tourism and M.I.C.E.
- City break
- Events
- Tourism of special interest
- Nautical tourism

Tourism destinations

According to all tourism trends and statistical data's it could be said that the City of Belgrade, as the capital of the Republic of Serbia is the most important tourism destination, not only in the Danube Section Area in the Republic of Serbia, but also is the most important tourism destination in the whole country.

## *BOR DISTRICT*

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

Comparing to the tourists' visits in 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, Borski District has been in the 8th place, referring the aspect of tourists' arrivals, while it has been in the 11th place for the tourists' overnight stays. Tables below present the above given data for the period of the year 2009. According to the data from the year 2009, there has been 153.302 overnight stays, 139.651 (91.10%) of which made by domestic tourists. Most of overnight stays have been recorded in the municipality of Kladovo (69.127), which means that cultural and nautical tourism has the greatest importance for tourism offer of Borski District. Municipality of Majdanpek is in the second place by tourists' visits, where 58.435 overnight stays have been made. On the 3rd place is municipality Bor with 16.552 overnight stays.

Main tourist destination of Bor District is Kladovo. It is an ancient small city at the exit from the Djerdap gorge. The most important tourism attraction is archeological site Lepenski Vir. National Park Đerdap and Đerdap Dam are also one of the main tourism destinations in Bor District with well preserved natural and cultural goods. In the Bor District, there are also famous wines, which could be tasted and bought in the traditional wine shops, called "pimnice" in the villages Rajac and Rogljevo, as well in the town Negotin, which is well known by good wines.

In the tables below is a presentation of the selected performance indicators of the tourism sector of Bor District for the period from 2005 to 2009.

Table 19. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds by municipalities and towns in Bor District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Bor	5.135	605	16.552	1.550	673
Kladovo	27.199	2.458	69.127	4.531	853
Majdanpek	25.882	2.666	58.435	6.599	607
Negotin	4.769	536	9.188	971	374
Bor District	62.985	6.265	153.302	13.651	2.507
Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 20. Overnight stay trends on the territory of Bor District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Bor	31.008	43.084	22.514	20.361	16.552
Kladovo	55.827	58.378	57.302	45.913	69.127
Majdanpek	70.843	60.351	66.996	75.546	58.435
Negotin	9.405	11.063	10.417	11.402	9.188
Bor District	167.083	172.876	157.229	153.222	153.302
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

## Major tourism attractions

Kladovo is an ancient small city at the exit from the Djerdap gorge. On the opposite river bank there is the Romanian city Turn Severin, with shipyard and large crane which dominate over the panoramic view. The entrance into the port is right next to the city walls of the Fetislam fortress. The fortress had two gates facing the land called Baroš and Orospi and another one towards the Danube, called Dunav kapija (Danube gate). At only 100m distance from the marina, there is the Archeological Museum of Djerdap that has the organized exhibition with prehistoric items as well as from the Roman period. Crkva Svetog Georgija (The Church of Holy Georges) in the center was built in 1862. Kladovo has numerous restaurant facilities with summer gardens and variety of dishes and desserts. The high building of the Djerdap Hotel dominates on the riverbank. Downstream from Kladovo, at 928.9 km, there is one of Trajan's bridge pillars preserved. Many historians consider the bridge as a real miracle of construction of the antique world. The bridge was under permanent surveillance and in its vicinity there was a strong military fortification called Kastel Pontes. The remains of the fortification are still visible.

The dam and Hydroelectric Power plant Djerdap I, were built by joint work of the Yugoslav and Romanian construction workers in a period from 1964 – 1972. The dam has 14 overflowing areas, and two power plants. In the Djerdap power plants yard, there is a second Trajan board preserved, that witnesses the construction of the canal for the safer navigation. The board was found in Karataš in 1969. Downstream from the dam, the Danube flows a bit faster and going around several small river islands. At 941 km, in Karataš there are remains of the ancient Roman fortification called Dijana. This fortification is the best preserved Roman castrum in Derma.

Lepenski vir is one of the most important archeological localities in Europe. The settlement from the neolith era, dates 8.500 years ago (6 500 B.C.). The settlement has had four developing phases, and the transformation from the community of hunters and collectors into the first agriculturists and carpenters is visible. The main feature of the settlement is its persistence, while other European peoples were nomads. The remains of house with trapezoid base and stone fireplace were found, along with many other facilities. Archeologist found 54 stone sculptures, styled heads in shape of fish decorated with ornaments.

## Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of Bor District are:

- Cultural tourism
- Nautical tourism
- Wine tourism.

## Tourism destinations

The most important tourist destinations in Bor District are Kladovo and Lepenski Vir which attract majority of tourists, especially who came for cultural tourism offer.

This region has underdeveloped tourist infrastructure and considering its tourist potential, it has a lot of possibilities for further development of tourism sector.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Bor District:

Project 1-2

<p>Project title: Tourism competitiveness through knowledge; Project location: Municipalities of Eastern Serbia,</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Activity: Building capacities of the personnel working in business sector in tourism in Eastern Serbia; Amount: € 29.000 Duration: 7 months</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Business sector, employees of travel agencies and tourist organizations Holder: Business sector from the region, Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia Partners: Ten Tourism organizations from Eastern Serbia</p>	
<p>Contact person: Zoran Milovanović; Trg Oslobođenja, 19 000 Zaječar; +38119426377e-mail: <a href="mailto:office@raris.org">office@raris.org</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information:</p>	

<p>Project title: Ethnic Heritage of Eastern Serbia; Project location: Municipalities of Eastern Serbia</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: preservation of ethnic heritage of Eastern Serbia through various activities implemented by women associations The Association of Women is working for the purpose of rural tourism promotion-ethnic weaving, folk embroidery, handicrafts and food preparation, unique to eastern Serbia. Amount: € 24.380 Duration: 6 months Contact person: Jelena Nakić, tel:+38119426376; Trg Oslobođenja, 19 000 Zaječar; <a href="mailto:jelena.nakic@raris.org">jelena.nakic@raris.org</a></p>	
<p>Potential Stakeholders: tourists, cultural community,</p>	
<p>Holder: civil society Partners: 13 Women Associations from Eastern Serbia</p>	
<p>Other informations:</p>	

## PODUNAVLJE DISTRICT

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

In refer to 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia; Podunavlje District is on the fifteenth place considering the number of tourists and on the twenty third places regarding the number of overnight stays. This indicates that Podunavlje District is touristic quite undeveloped area. The greatest number of overnight stays was recorded in Velika Plana (38.278), mainly because of the Corridor X and the fact that it is a transit area. On the second place is city of Smederevo (8.981 overnight stays) and on the third Smederevska Palanka (3.474 overnight stays). Podunavlje District participates in the Serbian tourist market with a small percentage of only 1.7%.

City of Smederevo is a significant tourist potential where business tourism is of the greatest importance, together with cultural (Smederevo Fortress) and events.

It is necessary to mention that there is a spa in this district – Palanački Kiseljak. Spa and wellness tourism is product with enormous development potential, which can meet the growing demand for specialized medical treatment.

The tables below provide account of selected performance indicators of the tourism sector on the territory of Podunavlje District for the period 2005-2009.

Table 22. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds in Podunavlje District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Velika Plana	29.165	9.268	38.278	18.203	425
City of Smederevo	3.309	2.705	8.981	6.532	399
Smederevska Palanka	1.951	638	3.474	1.460	190
Podunavlje District	34.425	12.611	50.733	26.195	1.014
Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 23. Overnight stay trends on the territory of Podunavlje District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Velika Plana	21.068	28.622	28.334	27.872	38.278
City of Smederevo	8.360	9.139	4.106	7.188	8.981
Smederevska Palanka	1.568	3.138	4.210	4.773	3.474
Podunavlje District	30.996	40.899	36.650	39.833	50.733
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

## Major tourism attractions

Podunavlje has a great potential for development of spa and wellness tourism. Palanački Kiseljak spa has four sources of mineral water with temperature 56°C. Water belong to the category of sodium hydro-carbonate, carbon-acidic hypo-thermals.

Also, in addition to natural resources, there are 9 small-extension protected areas.

Considering cultural monuments, there are 2 museums in the district, 6 galleries and 2 theaters, which are concentrated mainly in the cities. In refer to cultural property of great importance, worth mentioning are Radovanjski lug and Pokajnica Monastery, both in Velika Plana.

Furthermore, Smederevo Fortress was a medieval fortified city and temporary capital of Serbia. It was built by Despot Djuradj Brankovic in the first half of the 15th century, during the era of the Serbian Despotate. Later that century it was further fortified by the Turks. Smederevo Fortress was declared Monument of Culture of Exceptional Importance in 1979, and was protected by the Republic of Serbia. In 2010, Smederevo Fortress was placed on the Tentative List for possible nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of Podunavlje District are:

- Cultural tourism
- Transit tourism
- Business tourism
- Health tourism
- Leisure activities

## Tourism destination

It can be concluded that the most important tourist destinations in Podunavlje District are cities which attract majority of tourists, especially transit ones. This region has underdeveloped tourist infrastructure and considering its tourist potential, it has a lot of possibilities for further tourist development.

## BRANICEVO DISTRICT

### Analysis of the tourism potential of the District

Considering 25 districts in the Republic of Serbia, Branicevo District is on the sixteenth place in referring to the number of tourists and on the twenty first places regarding the number of overnight stays. This indicates that Branicevo District is touristic quite undeveloped area, although considering its great tourism potentials, there is a lot of space for improvement. The greatest number of overnight stays was recorded in Veliko Gradiste (30.382), mainly because of the Silver Lake and Danube which offer great opportunities for leisure activities. The second place is occupied by city of Pozarevac (21.718 overnight stays) and the third by Golubac (7.690 overnight stays). Branicevo District participates in the Serbian tourist market with a small percentage of only 1.4%.

Additionally, the main tourism destination and very popular resort in the district is Silver Lake near the town of Veliko Gradiste. It is suitable for numerous leisure activities especially in the summer time. This area is very famous for the historical site near city of Pozarevac – Viminacium and events tourism. Also, vast number of people visits Golubac Fortress on the Danube. Branicevo District is a transit area because of the Corridor X, which is why a lot of transit tourists could be seen here. Investment on a large scale has been planned for this region, especially in the accommodation facilities and improvement of local attractions which indicate positive trends regarding tourism development in the area.

The tables below provide account of selected performance indicators of the tourism sector on the territory of Branicevo District for the period 2005-2009.

Table 25. Number of tourists, foreign tourists, overnight stays and beds in Branicevo District in 2009.

City/municipality	Tourists	Foreign tourists	Overnight stays	Foreign tourists	Beds
Veliko Gradiste	15.784	817	30.382	1.162	977
Golubac	4.818	699	7.690	979	275
Zabari	-	-	-	-	6
Zagubica	688	74	1.221	136	106
Kucevo	904	75	4.512	232	120
Malo Crnice	-	-	-	-	10
Petrovac	-	-	-	-	32
City of Pozarevac	6.392	1532	21.718	6.868	321
<b>Branicevo District</b>	<b>28.586</b>	<b>3.197</b>	<b>65.523</b>	<b>9.377</b>	<b>1.847</b>
Serbia	2.018.466	645.022	6.761.715	1.469.102	116.182

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

Table 26. Overnight stay trends on the territory of Branicevo District for the period 2005-2009.

City/municipality	2005.	2006.	2007.	2008.	2009.
Veliko Gradiste	33.302	25.383	31.599	39.163	30.382
Golubac	7.551	7.903	7.671	13.356	7.690
Zabari	-	-	-	-	-
Zagubica	699	1.282	2.180	1.842	1.221
Kucevo	5.295	9.091	3.331	7.631	4.512
Malo Crnice	-	-	-	-	-
Petrovac	-	1.689	-	-	-
City of Pozarevac	31.706	34.350	18.394	43.557	21.718
Branicevo District	78.553	79.698	63.175	105.549	65.523
Serbia	6.499.352	6.592.622	7.328.692	7.334.106	6.761.715

Source: Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia

### Major tourism attractions

As the result of the rich and turbulent history of this region, which has been a major crossroad on the Balkans over the centuries, there are numerous cultural and historical monuments, and certainly the most important is Viminacium, near city of Pozarevac, which was a major city (provincial capital) and military camp of the Roman province of Moesia (Serbia). The city dates back to the 1st century AD and contains archaeological remains of temples, streets, squares, amphitheatres, palaces, hippodromes and Roman baths. It lies on the Roman road Via Militaris.

There is only 1 museum in the District and 1 gallery, 3 cultural sites of exceptional importance – apart from Viminacium, Kraku Lu Jordan and Lederata (Roman Fortification).

As an important element of natural heritage, there is one large-extension special reserve of nature in Branicevo District - National Park Derma which stretches along the right bank of the Danube River. The main feature and attraction of the Derma National Park's natural beauty is the Derma gorge - the famous Iron Gate - the grandiose gateway through the southern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains. The Derma gorge is around 100 kilometers long. The territory of the national park is filled with a series of other important features: abundant and diversified animal and especially plant life, attractive surroundings and landscapes, cultural and historical monuments and other anthropogenic tourist attractions.

### Tourism products

According to analysis of tourism potential, current attraction base and selected performance indicators of the tourism sector, the most important tourism products of Branicevo District are:

- Cultural tourism
- River cruising
- Fishing tourism
- Leisure activities

## Tourism destination

The most important tourist destination in Branicevo District is the archaeological site Viminacium, the Roman city whose reputation of the cultural richness has drawn the attention of not only the domestic but also the international public. In the years to come, it will most likely become a distinguished symbol of Kostolac and its region and a significant part of the world's cultural heritage

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Branicevo District:

Project 1-2

<p>Project title: “Signpost” – traffic-touristic signposting in Branicevo-Podunavlje region Project location: Branicevo-Podunavlje Region, cities Smederevo and Požarevac, municipalities Žagubica, Malo Crniće, Žabari, Veliko Gradište, Golubac, Smederevska Palanka, Velika Plana, Kučevo, Petrovac na Mlavi</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Provide easy and fast access to tourism localities in BP region and increase their visibility Activities: 1.Development of project and technical documentation, 2.Acquiring permits and selecting sub-contractors, 3.Supply and installation of signposts Amount: cca. 800.000 € Duration: 2 years</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders:self-governments, tourism organizations, TOS, tourism sector actors Target group: domestic and foreign tourists</p>	
<p>Contact person: RDA “Branicevo-Podunavlje” Ltd.Požarevac; Stari Korzo 30/3, 12 000 Požarevac +381 12 510 824 <a href="mailto:office@rra-bp.rs">office@rra-bp.rs</a>, <a href="http://www.rra-bp.rs">www.rra-bp.rs</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information</p>	
<p>Project title: Reconstruction and preservation of Ram Fortress; Project location: Branicevo-Podunavlje Region, Veliko Gradište</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description:Goal: Reparation and protection of Ram Fortress and secure conditions for putting the Fortress in function of tourism Activities: 1.Expert research and analysis, 2. Development of project-technical documentation, 3. Acquiring permits and preparing procurement, 4. Works on reconstruction of Fortress Amount: cca. 1 million € Duration: 3 years</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: local self-governments, tourism organizations of Lower Danube Region, Target group: domestic and foreign tourists Holder: Municipality Veliko Gradište Partners: TO Veliko Gradište</p>	
<p>Contact person: Aleksandra Đorđević,Head of Development Department, Municipality Veliko Gradište, Žitni trg 1, 12 220 Veliko Gradište,+381 12 660 444 ,<a href="mailto:sovgradiste@ptt.rs">sovgradiste@ptt.rs</a></p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Branicevo District:

Project 3-4

<p>Project title: Pedestrian and bicycle path from Golubac Fortress to Vinci; Project Location: Braničevo-Podunavlje Region, Golubac</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Improve pre-conditions for development of cycling tourism and decrease the flood risks by construction and adaptation of cycling and pedestrian path Activities: Construction of cycling-pedestrian path, public lighting along the path and protection of the coast along the path Amount: 5,5 million € Duration: 2-3 years</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: local self-governments, local tourism organizations, TOS, tourism sector actors, Target group: domestic and foreign cyclers and visitors of Region Holder: Municipality Golubac</p>	
<p>Contact person: Saša Bogičević, Head of LED Office Opština Golubac, Cara Lazara 15, 12 223 Golubac <a href="tel:+38112678169">+381 12 678 169</a>, <a href="mailto:infogolubac@gmail.com">infogolubac@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Other relevant information: The envisioned cycling path is a part of international cycling route</p>	
<p>Project title: Revitalization of the Golubac Fortress Project Location: Braničevo-Podunavlje Region, Golubac</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Reconstruction and adaptation of the Fortress in order to increase tourism (organized) visits Activities: Construction and adaptation of the roads, water-supply and waste waters installations, electro-energy installations, communication installations, reconstruction of the Fortress, and adaptation and construction of the fortress's reinforcements Amount: 6,415,000 € Duration: 3-5 year</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: local self-governments, local tourism organisations, TOS Holder: Municipality Golubac</p>	
<p>Contact person: Saša Bogičević, Head of LED Office, Opština Golubac, Cara Lazara 15, 12 223 Golubac <a href="tel:+38112678169">+381 12 678 169</a>, <a href="mailto:infogolubac@gmail.com">infogolubac@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The preparation of technical documents are in final stage.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Branicevo District:

Project 5

<p>Project title: Reconstruction and preservation of Smederevo Fortress; Project location: Braničevo-Podunavlje Region, Smederevo</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Goal: Reconstruction and adaptation of the Fortress in order to increase tourist (organized) visits and improve tourism offer Activities: Research, development of technical-project documentation, reconstruction and conservation of the Fortress, infrastructural equipping of the Fortress, interior and exterior lightning, and adaptation of the coast and surrounding area</p> <p>Amount: cca. 20 million € Duration: 5-7 years</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: local self-governments, local tourism organizations, TOS Target group: domestic and foreign tourist and visitors Partners: City of Smederevo, Regional office for protection of cultural monuments, TO Smederevo, PC Tvrdava</p>	
<p>Contact person: Zdravka Kovačević-Vasić, Head of LED Office, Grad Smederevo, Omladinska 1, 11 300 Smederevo, +381 26 222 257 <a href="mailto:zdravka.kovacevicvasic@smederevo.org.rs">zdravka.kovacevicvasic@smederevo.org.rs</a></p>	

### 3.5 COUNTIES OF ROMANIA

#### *CARAS SEVERIN*

The natural background, balneological resources, historical and art monuments and the richness of the ethno-folklore fund, gives the tourist potential of the Caraş Severin County.

The main attractive element of the country is the relief, which imposes through its diversity: the Cernei valley with Cheile Corcoaia (gorges) having the form of a huge tunnel, Cheile Minisului (gorges) – where one can remark the Bigarului waterfall, Adam's cave and Neamtu's cave, the Leul rock, the Buzias and Coronini gorges in the Danube narrow pass – the most impressive one in Europe, Cheile Buhui (gorges).

In the Caraş Severin county (2004) there are 834 historical monuments, 305 of these being archaeological sites and 529 - included in the following categories: monuments and architecture complexes, industrial monuments and technique history, churches, monasteries, technical fittings of peasant origin, peasant households, cemeteries, busts, statues, heroes' monuments.

Many belong to the A category, of national value: the „Ogăşele” Resita medieval complex, Moroasa district, the Berzovia castrum and Roman settlement, the Berzasca medieval settlement, the Apollo's temple in Caransebeş, the Tibiscus municipality and Roman castrum in Caransebeş (Jupa), the Cula de la Coronini (a semi-fortification), the Divici Dacian citadel and settlement, the Gornea – Sicheviţa – Dealul Păzărişte archaeological site, the Ilidia (Oblia and Cetate) archaeological sites, the Mehadia early medieval fortification and Citadel, the Pojejena Roman castrum, the Teregova castrum and Roman settlement, the Vărădia archaeological site, the Steam engines museum.

The „Rânduri” urban complex, the Grebla hydro-electric complex, the „Calea ferată Iam (Baziaş) – Oraviţa – Anina” railway line with engineer art and architecture components, the Anina siderurgy factory complex, the „Sf. Sava” monastery in Baziaş, the Stone bridge over Cerna

Băile Herculane, the Spa architecture complex (from the Roman-catholic church till Podul Rosu); the Casino complex, the Roman Bath and spa complex in Băile Herculane, the Eftimie Murgu mill complex – mill reserve - , the Ersig wood church, the CFR railway in Oraviţa (1847), the Old theatre in Oraviţa (1817), the Oraviţa lakes dams and channel; a Hydro-technical complex tunnel, bridge and aqueduct (Reşiţa)

The natural reserves are included in the areas of the national or natural parks. We mention some of them: the „Bigăr” natural reserve with the Bigăr spring- the longest cave spring in Banat. The “Cheile Caraşului” natural reserve is a major tourist attraction in the Munţii Banatului caves (cave landscape, flora and fauna rarities, many caves), the Cheile Gârliştei natural reserve with the Galaşilui cave, the „Cheile Nerei -Beuşniţa” natural reserve - the longest gorges in the country, of a special wildness and charm, of the spectacular elements of the caves we mention: the Ochiul Beiului and Dracului lakes, the three waterfalls of Beuşniţa on calcite tuff, caves and springs with intermittent flows, the „Domogled” natural reserve is the oldest natural reserve in the county(1932). The „Fâneţele cu narcise din Valea Sebeşului” natural reserve, the „Izvoarele Nerei” natural reserve, with the most compact beech forests in Europe. The „Valea Ciclovei” natural reserve the „Valea Mare” natural reserve.

Spa-climatic resorts of international interest: Băile Herculane

Tourist resorts: Semenic, Crivaia, Poiana Mărului, Secu, Trei ape.

The territory of the Caras-Severin county includes several ethnographic areas, each being original through some characteristic features: the Bistrei valley, the Sebeşului valley, the Timişului valley, the Timiş-Cerna corridor and the Clisura Dunării area.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Caras Severin district

Project 1-2

<p>Title and address of the project : Mountain Tourism development in the areas of Semenic – Crivaia – Trei Ape – mountain tourism (ski, horse riding, mountain bike)</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Crivaia resort, Semenic resort (35 km of Resita) and Trei Ape are in the National Park Semenic - Caras Gorge. In Semenic resort the ski season is the longest in Romania</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council, Small and medium enterprises from tourism, Park administration</p>	
<p>Contact person: Caras Severin County Council - <a href="mailto:cjcs@cjcs.ro">cjcs@cjcs.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.cjcs.ro">www.cjcs.ro</a> , Adress - Piata 1DecembrieNr.1 Resita 320084 Semenic – Cheile Carasului Park Management – Tudorescu Sorin (manager) Adress –st. Ateneului nr. 2 Reșița, ph. 0040255 - 227520</p>	
<p>Other information: Investment needed to develop tourism: upgrading the accommodation and the restaurants, winter sports infrastructure, entertainment infrastructure, specific infrastructure of protected areas</p>	
<p>Title and address of the project : Mountain Tourism development in the areas of Muntele Mic - Poiana Marului – mountain tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Muntele Mic is about 22 km from Caransebes in Craiu Valley (altitude 773 m), where a lift with a length of 3492m and a difference of 799 m allows a rapid climb of Muntele Mic. Poiana Marului is situated at a distance of 25 km from Otelu Rosu, a very picturesque setting, dominated by coniferous and deciduous forests,</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Councils, entrepreneurs</p>	
<p>Contact person: Caras Severin County Council - <a href="mailto:cjcs@cjcs.ro">cjcs@cjcs.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.cjcs.ro">www.cjcs.ro</a> , Adress - Piata 1 Decembrie Nr.1Resita 320084</p>	
<p>Other information: Investment needed for hotels, and restaurants, entertainment infrastructure.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects i in Caras Severin district

Project 3.

<p>Title and address of the project: Revitalization and modernization of spa tourism in Herculane resort – spa tourism, mountain tourism (Baile Herculane – Caras Severin County)</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Baile Herculane resort is located in the south-west of Romania, at an altitude of 168 m, 8 km from the border county of Mehedinti and only 25 km from the border with Serbia. Natural factors: intramontane climate, with sub-Mediterranean influences, mineral isothermal and hyperthermia (38-60°C), slightly radioactive, hypotonic, with different chemical compositions. Possibilities of treatment: aero heliotherapy, thermal baths, in pools, spas and salt sulfur in tubs and pools, electrotherapy ecc. The resort can make excursions to the ruins of Roman baths, Thieves Cave (Cave of Outlaws), Steam Cave, White Cross, and others.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council County Council Small and medium enterprises from tourism</p>	
<p>Contact person: Nicusor Vasilescu (Mayor) - Adress: Str. Mihai Eminescu nr. 10, Baile Herculane, jud. Caras-Severin, ROMANIA, 325200, Ph. 0040255-560439, Fax 0040255-560321, <a href="http://primaria.baile-herculane.ro">http://primaria.baile-herculane.ro</a>, <a href="mailto:primaria@baile-herculane.ro">primaria@baile-herculane.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Investment needed to develop tourism: spa infrastructure - treatment facilities, building new treatment facilities with the possibility of exploitation in winter, rearrangement of water springs, the restoration of architectural heritage, mountain trails signaling, entertainment infrastructure, promotion</p>	

## *MEHEDINTI*

Tourism in the Mehedinti county is formed by the great landscape offered by the Danube river and its narrow pass, by the relief diversity in the mountain area, by the special flora and fauna elements, many of them being included in scientific reserves, to which are added impressive proofs of a millennia past, expressed by a series of historical, architecture and art monuments, some being unique through their value and originality.

The main tourist objectives in the Drobeta Turnu Severin municipality are:

- The ruins of the Traian bridge (bridge built during the Dacian wars fought by emperor Traian against Decebal)
- The Drobeta castrum (built during the same period with the Traian bridge)
- The ruins of the medieval church, lying next to the Roman castrum
- The “Portile de Fier” museum with history, archaeology, ethnography, nature sciences departments and a very special aquarium.

The most important tourist areas of the county, outside the Drobeta Turnu Severin municipality, are the following:

- The “Portile de Fier I” area including: the Danube narrow pass, the Clisura Dunarii area with The „Cazanele Mari and Cazanele Mici” , the accumulation lakes, the hydro-energetic and navigation system, many viaducts above wild valleys, the Orsova municipality, the Sfanta Ana (Saint Ann) monastery.
- The Şimian islet – island situated before Drobeta Turnu Severin , where was moved the citadel of the ancient Ada-Kaleh island, island which now lies under the waters of the accumulation lake
- The north area of the county hosts: the Baia de Arama town with: the Sfintii Voievozi church, the Ponoare cave complex, the Topolnita cave – with an explored length of 10,330 m, being the second in the country as surface, the Bala spa-climatic resort, with thermal-mineral waters.
- The Strehaia area includes: the Strehaia monastery citadel, built around 1500, the lime trees forest, the Gura Motrului monastery.

The natural reserves represent an important element of the county. These include: the Cracul Găioara botanical reserve : the feather grass of the Portile de Fier region vegetates on Cracul Găioarei, the only place in the world where it has been noticed. The Valea Oglănicului botanical reserve, the Cracul Crucii botanical reserve, the Gura Văii - Vârciorova botanical reserve, the Fața Virului botanical reserve, the Dealul Dohomnei botanical reserve, the Bahna paleontological reserve is one of the most important fossils location in the country, the ‘Cazanele Mari si Cazanele Mici’ complex reserve, The Şvinița paleontological reserve is one of the most important fossils location in the Carpathians. The red calcite in Svinita contains the richest ammonite fauna in the country, the Ponoare natural bridge is a natural arcade formed when a cave roof collapsed - is a unique phenomenon in the country. Peștera de la Pod is the origin of the Ponoare natural bridge. The Stun cave, the Stun lake, the Lamias plains, the Lily forest in Poniard is a forest reserve and has been declared a nature monument, the Topolnița cave, one of the largest caves in the country, has a gallery length of 25 km, Epuran’s cave.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Mehedinti district:

Project 1.

<p>Title and address of the project : (name of settlement, type of tourism /investment, education, training, service): Optimum utilization of mineral resources in the village Bala – spa tourism (Bala – Mehedinți County)</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Bala resort is situated in Mehedinti county, 50 km from Drobeta Turnu-Severin. Bala has considerable reserves of mineral water and therapeutic mud, being profiled on internal and external cure. The resort has 208 accommodation places in a 2 stars hotel.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council Private investors in tourism Partnerships between local council and other organizations in the field of tourism or health tourism or public-private partnerships (between local authority administration and various private investors).</p>	
<p>Contact person (name, address, telephone, e-mail): Chițimia Constantin (Mayor of Bala) - ph. 0040252-386020, 0040252-386001, fax 0040252-386001 National Institute for Rehabilitation, Physical Medicine and Balneoclimatology – Str. Sf. Dumitru nr. 2, Sector 3, Bucuresti, ph/fax 004021-3155050, <a href="mailto:info@inrmfb.ro">info@inrmfb.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.inrmfb.ro">www.inrmfb.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Pentru dezvoltarea turismului balnear sunt necesare următoarele investiții: recondiționarea surselor (forajelor și izvoarelor), stabilirea perimetrelor de protecție ecologică și hidrogeologică și de severa protecție sanitară, modernizarea și dezvoltarea infrastructurii turistice. To develop health tourism in Bala, the following investments are necessary: restoration of water sources (wells and springs), establishing the ecological and hydro geological protection perimeters and the severe health protection, modernization and development of tourist infrastructure.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Mehedinti district:

Project 2.

<p>Title and address of the project : Optimum valorification of mineral resources in Schema Cladode – spa tourism, recreational tourism, weekend tourism (Drumbeat Turn Severing – Maharini County)</p>	
<p>Brief description: Drumbeat Turn Severing is located on the left bank of the Danube River on the European road E70, 220 km southeast of Timisoara, 113 km west of Craiova and 353 km west of Bucharest. Mineral waters: bicarbonated, sulphurous</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council Private investors in tourism Partnerships between local council and other organizations in the field of tourism or health tourism or public-private partnerships (between local council and various private investors).</p>	
<p>Contact person: Constantin Gherghe (Mayor) – Adress: Mareşal Averescu, nr. 2, Drobeta Turnu Severin, <a href="mailto:primaria@primariadrobeta.ro">primaria@primariadrobeta.ro</a>, ph. 0040252-314379, fax 0040252-316317, <a href="http://www.primariadrobeta.ro">www.primariadrobeta.ro</a>  <a href="mailto:primaria@primariadrobeta.ro">primaria@primariadrobeta.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information: To develop tourism in Schela Cladovei area, the following investments are necessary: restoration of water sources (wells and springs), establishing the ecological and hydro geological protection perimeters and the severe health protection, modernization and development of tourist infrastructure and services, planning of the Danube promenade recreation area, expanding the recreational area, construction of treatment/spa facilities.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Mehedinți district:

Project 3.

<p>Title and address of the project: Tourism development and promotion of Orsova city - cultural tourism, itinerant tourism, transit tourism, adventure tourism, water tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Orsova city, 25 km west of Drobeta Turnu Severin, represents the second major urban center in the area of Porțile de Fier. The main attraction is the Danube Gorge, but has cultural attractions, religious, archaeological or natural, too.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council of Mehedinți Private investors in tourism Partnerships between local council and other organizations in the field of tourism, public-private partnerships.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Constantin Adrian Bragaru (Mayor) - Adress str. 1 Decembrie 1918, nr. 20, cod 225200, jud. Mehedinți, ph.0040252-361233, fax0040252-361337, <a href="mailto:primariaorsova@primariaorsova.ro">primariaorsova@primariaorsova.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Orsova has huge tourism potential - speleological tourism, religious tourism, cultural tourism, traveling, water tourism, adventure. Romania - Serbia border area has a huge potential to attract structural funds, European funds and cross-border tourism investments. Although tourism has potential just 20 people are employed in this field. Investment required: diversification of leisure, upgrading and building new accommodation and restaurants, creating an information center, promotion etc.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Mehedinți district:

Project 4.

<p>Title and address of the project: Touristic development in Mehedinți County Arrange for visits of tourists some caves and other geological formations in order to diversify the tourism offer (Topolnița, Epuran, Ponoarele, Bulba, Izverna) – adventure, scientific, speological tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Topolnita and is the longest cave in Romania and the 16th in the world. The cave is located on V. Ponorâtului and is part of the karst complex Topolnita - Epuran, a nature reserve area of 50 ha. Bulba cave has a length of 4.860 m. The cave consists of a mixed network of galleries on three levels: active and fossil, subfossil. Izverna Cave is one of the most famous caves in Europe for practice speleological underwater, being filmed by Jacques Yves Cousteau in the section 'Explorations of the twentieth century' - Smithsonian Museum in Washington.</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council of Mehedinți Small and medium enterprise</p>	
<p>Contact person: <u>Cireșu village</u> – Doru Țărlui (Mayor), ph 004252-388650, fax 004252-388650 <u>Ponoarele village</u> - Georgică Pătrașcu (Mayor), ph. 004252-381512, fax 0040252-381512 <u>Izverna village</u> - Stoican Ion (Mayor), ph. 0040252-388151, fax 004252-388151, <u>Mehedinți County Council</u> -Drobeta Turbu Severin -Fota Dumitru (Department of Regional Development) ph 004 0372 521 113, int 275, Adress - Calea Traian nr.89, Drobeta Turnu Severin, 220134 <u>Rom. Fed. of Speleology</u> – Adress - Casa Academiei, Institutul de Speologie Emil Racovita, Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 13, sector 5, Bucuresti Ph (+4) 021 318 81 06, int. 2729, fax (+4) 021 318 81 32, <a href="mailto:office@frspeo.ro">office@frspeo.ro</a>, <a href="http://frspeo.ro">http://frspeo.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Mehedinți district:

Project 5.

<p>Title and address of the project: Promoting tourist area “Mehedințiul de sub munte” – mountain tourism, /speological tourism, adventure tourism, ecotourism/</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Title and address of the project: Promoting tourist area “Mehedințiul de sub munte” – mountain tourism, /speological tourism, adventure tourism, ecotourism/</p>	
<p>Brief description: Mountain Mehedinți is a complex area and the potential value of Mehedinți county including the following locations: Drobeta Turnu Severin, Baia de Arama, Orsova, Balta., Breznita, Cireșu, Dubova, Eșelnița, Ilovița, Isverna, Obârșia Cloșani, Podeni, Ponoarele, Svinița.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council of Mehedinți Private investors in tourism Partnerships between local council and other organizations in the field of tourism, public-private partnerships.</p>	
<p>Contact person: Mehedinți County Council – Drobeta Turbu Severin - Fota Dumitru (Department of Regional Development) ph 004 0372 521 113, int 275, Address - Calea Traian nr.89, Drobeta Turnu Severin, 220134</p>	
<p>Other information: Necessary investments: recreational infrastructure, promotional materials, advertising, touristic signs, info points/ centers, tourist accommodation and eating facilities</p>	

## *DOLJ*

The natural background, the historical, culture and traditional art monuments and recreational areas create the existence of a valuable natural tourist potential.

In the Dolj county, there are 18 protected areas in conformity with the Law 5/2001, which are included in the national system and a number of 19 protected areas in conformity with the Dolj County council decision 26/1994. Concerning the protected water areas, these have to be reanalyzed having in view the diminishing of the surfaces and the flows. Of the 18 protected areas, we mention: the Pădurea Ciurumela forest reserve in Poiana Mare, formed by old acacias, the Ciuperceii Noi ornithological reserve is the only place in the Danube meadow, which has remained un-dammed; the Plenita wild peony reserve is unique in Romania. The Bucovat paleontological reserve, the Preajba Facai lacustrine complex, declared protected aquatic area, it contains 5 ponds designed in steps covering a surface of 21 ha; the Ionele lake with waters which have mineralised step by step, acquiring therapeutic qualities for the treatment of rheumatic problems; in the past the resort of this area, “Baile Ionele”, was famous for its iodine waters which attracted many tourists along time.

In the Dolj county there are historical attractions, architecture and art monuments such as: Casa Băniei is the oldest urban building in the town and one of the oldest architecture monuments of this type in the country, currently Casa Glogoveanu, here lies the County tribunal, Casa Jianu, Fântâna Popova (fountain), Cula Poenaru (semi-fortification), Cula Izvoranu (semi-fortification), Cula Cernătescu (semi-fortification), the Bucovat monastery, the „Sfântul Dumitru” princely church, the Sadova monastery, the Jitianu monastery, the Romanescu park - one of the largest and most beautiful parks in the country where greenhouses, a lake with islands, a zoological corner and a wonderful suspended bridge have been created, the Oltenia museum in Craiova with history, ethnography and nature sciences departments, the Art Museum in Craiova, the Craiova library, the Oltenia state philharmonics, the Puppets theatre has won a national and international fame, the Craiova National Theatre has always had a very high artistic expression and the Opera and Operetta Theatre.

In the Dolj county where the soil is very sandy, one can visit the vineyards: Sadova, Dăbuleni, Poiana Mare, Bechet, Segarcea, Brabova, Vânju Mare, Plenita.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Dolj district:

Project 1.

<p>Title and address of the project : Utilization of spa resources in Gig Hera – Gighera, Dolj County - spa tourism, ecotourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Investments opportunities: construction of treatment facilities, modernizing of camping, arranging of a pond of 62 ha in the village Gighera, tourism infrastructure, building a holiday village and a visitor center near the forest Zaval.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council, SME enterprises</p>	
<p>Contact person: Dăbuleanu Ion (Mayor) – Adress - Principală, no. 184, Gig Hera, Dolj, 207285, Ph. 0040251-353011, fax 0040251-353011</p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	
<p>Title and address of the project : Planning for tourism the Bascov area – Calafat, Dolj – weekend tourism, recreational tourism, water tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Calafat is a town in Dolj county which is located about 90 kilometers from county capital, Craiova, south west of Oltenia. The city is one of the ports on the Danube river in Romania and an important border crossing with Bulgaria. The Bascov area - Calafat, is on the Danube and has a beach.</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council, SME sector</p>	
<p>Contact person: Mircea Guta (Mayor) – Adress - B-dul. T. Vladimirescu, No. 24, Calafat, 205200, Dolj, Ph 0040251-231424, 0040251-231214, fax 0040251-232884, <a href="mailto:primar@municipiulcalafat.ro">primar@municipiulcalafat.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.municipiulcalafat.ro">www.municipiulcalafat.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Investments opportunities: tourism infrastructure, recreational infrastructure, water sports facilities, infrastructure for public alimentation.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Dolj district:

Project 2-3.

<p>Title and address of the project : Promotion of wine tourism in Dolj County –</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Vineyards are at Sadova, Dabuleni, Bechet and three vineyards along the Danube - Segarcea, Banu Maracine, Bradesti, and Plenita. Necessary investments: building of wine tasting centers, wine cellars and remodeling vineyards promotion, tourism infrastructure</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council Small and medium enterprise</p>	
<p>Contact person: Dolj County Council – Adress - Palatul Administrative, Strada Unirii, no. 19, Craiova, <a href="mailto:relpub@cjdolj.ro">relpub@cjdolj.ro</a>, <a href="mailto:contact@cjdolj.ro">contact@cjdolj.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.cjdolj.ro">www.cjdolj.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address: Tourism infrastructure, on the isle of Cop Anita</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Cop Anita Island is at the confluence of the Danube and river Jim. It is an area suitable for fishing. Moreover, water tourism. Catering, sport, wellness and hotel services are needed</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council, Small and medium enterprises</p>	
<p>Contact person: Dolj County Council – Adress - Palatul Administrativ, Strada Unirii, no. 19, Craiova, <a href="mailto:relpub@cjdolj.ro">relpub@cjdolj.ro</a>, <a href="mailto:contact@cjdolj.ro">contact@cjdolj.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.cjdolj.ro">www.cjdolj.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

### *OLT*

Having in view a geographic landscape with a rather low tourist interest, there are some objectives of special interest (landscape, flora, fauna) which are natural attractions of the county: Valea Dunarii (Dunarii valley) with its islets and beaches offers valuable aesthetic images, Valea Oltului (Oltului valley) appears as a chain of lakes following the hydro-energetic facilities being exploited, the forests, characterized by the diversity of essences, fact which contributes to creating some original landscapes in their entire vegetation period.

The Dacian and Roman antiquity is represented by: the Romula, Limes, Transalutacuu, Rusidava, Sucidava fortresses, which have developed on the ruins of the Dacian buildings.

The main tourist interest points are: the Sprincenata Geto-Dacian fortified settlement, the walls of the Byzantine citadel (Celei-Corabia) with Fantana Secreta (the Secret fountain) – unique monument of the Byzantine Roman architecture; the church of the Caluiu monastery with original frescoes representing Mihai Viteazu's wife and Fratii Buzesti (Buzesti brothers); the Brancoveni monastery, the Hotarani monastery, the medieval 'Turnul de Paza' (Guard tower) in Hotareni; the fortress in Campul Mare; Iancu Jianu outlaw's Memorial house in Caracal; the Nicoale Titulescu memorial centre in the homonymous village; the Clocociov monastery built on a voivode Mihai Viteazu's settlement, the Sf. Treime church in Corabia, an important religious architecture monument; 'Biserica de Lemn' (wood church) from Parosi-Leleasca; the Stoicanesti church painted by Gheorghe Tattarescu, the Olt County museum etc.

Traditional holidays: the Tismana traditional fair, the Peony Holiday, the Potters' Fair, the Lime tree holiday in the Babiciu locality; the "Calusul Romanesc" national festival in Slatina, Caracal, Valcele and Oporelu keep the tradition of Calus (easel), the Bread Holiday in Scornicesti an open air festival, "Sarbatoarea Iilor" (the Feast of the spangled traditional women blouse) in Cezeni, the Traditional song festival in Bals; the "Corabia de aur" traditional music festival is held on the Danube banks; "De la Draganesti la vale", the greatest festival of doinas and ballads in the Dragasani town.

Reserves and nature monuments: the "Boianu" bustard reserve, the Topana forest reserve, the Seaca Optasani forest reserve, the Branistea Catarilor forest natural reserve, the Padurea Calugareasca natural reserve.

Tastings: Pomiviticola Samburesti S.A. in the Dobroteasa locality, Cula Galita in the Dobroteasa locality.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Olt district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project : The promotion of cultural and religious tourism in Olt County – cultural tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: This county should be viewed mainly due to historical vestiges such as "ruins Sucidava Celei Oabia Geto-Dacian, Roman town remains "Romula" from Resca,, Brâncoveni Monastery , aluiu Monastery the village Oboga, Monastery Hotaran in the village Farcasele etc Necessary investments: tourism information centers, tourism infrastructure, promotion</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council, SME sector</p>	
<p>Contact person: Olt County Council - Adress - Slatina, B-dul A.I. Cuza, No. 14 Ph: +40-249-431080 Fax: +40-249-431122 Web: <a href="http://www.cjolt.ro">http://www.cjolt.ro</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:cjolt@cjolt.ro">cjolt@cjolt.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	
<p>Title and address of the project : Tourism infrastructure in the city – port of Corabia – trade, fishing, cultural tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Necessary investments: fluvial port modernization, tourism facilities, entertainment facilities, tourism information point, tourism agency</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council, SME sector</p>	
<p>Contact person: Teodor Barbu (Mayor) – Ph. 0040249 -60703, fax 0040249-506154, <a href="http://www.primariacorabia.ro">www.primariacorabia.ro</a>, <a href="mailto:primariacorabia@yahoo.com">primariacorabia@yahoo.com</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

## *TELEORMAN*

Due to the geographic location but also the cultural-historical patrimony, relatively modest in comparison with other counties, the tourist potential in Teleorman is not an impressive one.

The main nature elements with recreational tourist value in the county territory are: forests with a diverse composition and a favorable position towards the main county localities: Bratșanu, Brănceni, Pauleasca, Pietrosani; the Danube course (90 km length), with its meadow and islets (Calnovat, Iazul Mare, Iazul Mic, Prundu); the natural lakes which can be designed for recreation (sunbathing, nautical sports, swimming), such as Suhaia, Silistea, Civaca, Fotana, Pasarea, Purani, Grosu-Razmiresti, Beiu, Craca, Primaverii, s.a; the Oltului, Vedei, Calmatuiului meadows with attractive landscapes; the area where the Olt river meets the Danube.

On the territory of the Teleorman county there are also monuments which can be introduced in the tourist tour: Old settlements, archaeological sites: "Cetatea de la Zimnicea" (the Zimnicea citadel), the ruins of some Geto-Dacian settlements in Albesti, Orbeasca de Sus, Trivale, Mosteni, Pleasov; the ruins of the "Turris" roman citadel, the ruins in Islaz, Flamanda, Gresia-Stejaru, Troianu, Putineiu; - archaeological vestiges: the Valea – Marzavesti archaeological reserve, 'Gorganul de la Tiganesti', 'Gorganul de la Alexandria', the "La Rape" archaeological reserve in Poroschia, the "Vedea" and "Racovita" archaeological reserves, the "La ziduri" feudal citadel in Tatarastii de Sus.

Religious historical and art monuments: the Draganesti monastery; the ruins of the Ciolanesti monastery, the Plaviceni – Alunis monastery; the "Sf. Alexandru" cathedral, the Brănceni church, the Balaci locality church, the Dobrotesti locality church, the Butculesti village church (Saceni locality), the Smardioasa locality church(1824), the Didesti locality hermitage; Historical and art monuments, urban architecture complexes: Cula lui Costea in Frasinet (semi-fortification), the Vitanesti lordly house, the Iliescu lordly house in Izvoarele, the Beiu Storbaneasa lordly house, the lordly house in the Lunca forest, Museums and memorial houses:

in Alexandria: the History and Archeology county museum, the Praporgescu general memorial house; in Rosiori de Vede: the "Rascoala taranilor din 1907" (the Peasant's revolt in 1907) museum; the "Gala Galaction" memorial exposition in the Didesti locality; the "Marin Preda" memorial exposition in the Silistea Noua locality; the "Zaharia Stancu memorial house" in the Salcia locality; the Haricleea Darce Plastic art museum department and Memorial house in Turnu Magurele. Ethnography and folklore traditional events: the "Marama romaneasca" annual fair of the headkerchief creators in Rosiori de Vede and Alexandria; "Festivalul cantecului si jocular popular teleormanean" (Feast of the specific Teleorman songs and dances) in Alexandria; the "Cel mai bun rapsod" (the best poet) festival, the "Pe deal pe la Teleorman" ("on the hill, on Teleorman") festival, the Lime tree feast, annual, in the month of May, in Draganesti-Vlasca.

Wine tastings: the vineyards in Bragadiru, Nenciulesti and Turnu Magurele.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Teleorman district:

Project 1.-2.

<p>Title and address of the project : Development of fishing and hunting tourism in Zimnicea – fishing, hunting, transit</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Necessary investments: tourism infrastructure, fishery and fish restaurant, facilities for water recreation, modernization of the existing infrastructure, diversifying the tourism offer; the main investor is InterAgro Group.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, private investors</p>	
<p>Contact person: Parvu Petre (Mayor) - Adress - St. Giurgiu no. 1, Ph. 0040247-366196, 0040247-368425, <a href="mailto:city-hallzm@yahoo.com">city-hallzm@yahoo.com</a>, <a href="http://primariazimnicea.ro">http://primariazimnicea.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project : Optimal utilization of the Danube landscape in the city of Turnu Magurele</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Tourist attractions: Orthodox Cathedral; Central Park; Palace of Justice; children club; at the shores of the Danube and Olt river are favorable places for fishing boats. Necessary investments: development of tourist infrastructure: catering services, recreational facilities reconstruction of Danube bank, building small boats pontoons, promoting village tourism, encouraging traditional crafts and occupations.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, Private investors</p>	
<p>Contact person: Mohanu I. Nicolae (Mayor) – Adress -Republicii, no. 2, Turnu Magurele, Teleorman, 145200, Ph. 0040247-416816, fax 0247-416453, <a href="http://www.municipiulturnumagurele.ro">http://www.municipiulturnumagurele.ro</a></p>	

## *GIURGIU*

Representative monuments of the county:

The Clock tower created in stone during the Turkish occupation and had the role to be an observation point in case the Romanian armies are attacked.

Podul Prieteniei (the Friendship Bridge) is the longest bridge on the Danube, being built on two levels: river and route (with two lanes and pavement for pedestrians). It is a unique mobile bridge and the only one on the Romanian sector of the Danube.

The main tourist objectives for the Giurgiu county are: Archaeological vestiges: the ruins of the Argidava Geto-Dacian fortified settlement, the ruins of the Giurgiu citadel, the Tabiei wall; Religious historical and art monuments: the Orthodox cathedral, the „Sf. Nicolae“ church; the Comana monastery with the ‚Sf. Nicolae‘ church; Plastic art monuments with architecture value:

The building of the ancient prefect’s office in Vlasia, currently a museum, the Port building, the CFR building, the Druganescu palace in the Stoenesti locality - Floresti; the Lordly houses: Mavrache - the Singureni locality; Nicu Cantacuzino and Pasai – the Vedeia locality; Ion Barbu Arion – the Rasuceni locality; Commemorative plastic art monuments: the Heroes’ mausoleum in the Giurgiu municipality; the Mihai Viteazul obelisk and the monument built in the honour of the heroes who died in the first world war, the Calugareni locality; Museums and memorial houses: in the Giurgiu municipality: the County museum; in the Floresti-Stoenesti locality: the Ethnographic museum of Campia Dunarii; in the Heresti locality: the ferrous objects museum; the Tudor Vianu writer’s house in the Floresti locality; the Maria Tanase house in the Bucsani locality; Ethnography and folklore – folklore and cultural events: 'Coruri Vlasce' is hosted by the 'Ion Vasilescu' theatre in the Giurgiu municipality; the 'Pe marginea Dunarii' competition festival of traditional music at the 'Ion Vasilescu' theatre in the Giurgiu municipality; the 'Nichifor Crainic' creation contest - the Giurgiu municipality and the Bulbucata locality.

The natural patrimony of the county is not very rich but it owns some original values which have imposed through their esthetical, recreational and educative values.

In the Giurgiu county there are 4 natural reserves protected by Law 5/2001, these being: the Oloaga-Grădinari forest in the Comana locality, the Padina Tătarului forest in the Comana locality, the Manafu forest in the Ghimpați town, the Teșila reserve in the Schitu local.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Giurgiu district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Development of the Danube meadow area</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Giurgiu is a marshy area Danube, nearby Bulgari-an city Ruse, forming an Euroregion. Necessary investments: creation of landing stages, facilities for tourists, restaurants or other catering units</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council, County Council</p>	
<p>Contact person ( name, address, telephone, e-mail): Lucian Iliescu (Mayor), Address: Bulevardul Bucuresti, nr. 49-51, Giurgiu, e-mail: <a href="mailto:primar@primaria-giurgiu.ro">primar@primaria-giurgiu.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Upgrading the port of Giurgiu</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: One of the main Danube ports, in the middle sector of the Romanian Danube at the km 493 is the port of Giurgiu, near the city of Giurgiu. Necessary investments: creating new systems for passenger ships docking in improving safety; info center</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local Council,</p>	
<p>Contact person ( name, address, telephone, e-mail): Giurgiu Port – Address - Str. Portului no.1, Giurgiu, ROMANIA Ph: 0040246-211399 Ph: 0040246-215306 Fax: 004021- 3124041 E-mail: <a href="mailto:giurgiu@giurgiu-port.ro">giurgiu@giurgiu-port.ro</a> <a href="http://www.giurgiu-port.ro">www.giurgiu-port.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Giurgiu district:

Project 3.

<p>Title and address of the project: Public recreational infrastructure in nature reserves – Comana Natural Park</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Comana village is at a distance of 32 km from Bucharest and 44 km from Giurgiu, the first railway station established in 1869 between the two cities. The most important tourism attractions are: Comana Forest, Comana lake and Comana Monastery. The decision for establishing the park was adopted by the Romanian Academy for protecting important areas of two special flower, respectively barbed Scientific Reserve (<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>) and Scientific Reserve of peony (<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>). These two reserves were added in 2004 the Pond Comana as nature reserve and Bird Protection Area. Necessary investments: paths, bike trails, fishing piers, and other recreational facilities</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Comana Local Council Comana Natural Park Administration</p>	
<p>Contact person ( name, address, telephone, e-mail): Tudor Dumitru (mayor): <a href="mailto:TDumitru@primariacomana.ro">TDumitru@primariacomana.ro</a>, ph. 0040246-283302 <a href="http://www.primariacomana.ro">www.primariacomana.ro</a>, <a href="http://comanaparc.ro">http://comanaparc.ro</a></p>	
<p>Other information</p>	

### *BUCURESTI ILFOV*

Known as Little Paris between the World Wars, Bucharest still has an important historical and cultural heritage, which barely survived the '80s destructive urban policy.

Romania's capital city is still the most important historical and cultural center of the country, numbering around 270 churches, of which 74 were declared historical monuments, the oldest being built between the XVth and XVIth centuries. Bucharest hosts a quarter of the Romanian cultural heritage, representing over 4 million units ( a total of approximately 17 million at national level).

Bucharest also offers a wide range of cultural / entertainment places, represented, especially by 50 museums, 8 state theaters and 6 private theaters, the National Circus and an important number of cinemas.

However, the region's cultural heritage is not promoted enough (there are no green telephone lines, no information centers or billboards outside the monuments, etc.) and neither protected. Bucharest is the most important business center in the country due to the presence of the most important Romanian and foreign bank offices, and because the organization of important national and international exhibitions, conferences, seminars. ROMEXPO Bucharest organizes national and international fairs.

The touristic potential of Ilfov County is linked to its location on the old site of Vlasia Forests and forest areas remaining, and to the presence in the region of lakes and ancient Orthodox monasteries with their museums. A special attraction is the possibility of fishing, water sports, hunting and access to cultural heritage.

Main attractions are: Caldarusani, Raioasa, Cernica, Snagov and Mogosoia representing complexes consisting of forests, lakes and monasteries. The most important forests are Caldarusani, Snagov and Raioasa. They consist of various tree species, some very rare, with a very rich flora and fauna. Snagov Forest is part of a natural reservation, preserving both flora and fauna. Snagov Lake is part of the same reservation, preserving its beautiful flowers, especially white and yellow water lilies, lotus and reed.

Ilfov county's cultural heritage includes a number of monasteries and palaces, built between XVIIth and XIXth centuries.

Monasteries were built beginning the Middle Ages, on the banks of lakes and islands. Most of them are museums where are exposed ancient manuscripts, religious objects and sacred art. The most important monasteries are: Caldarusani, Cernica, Snagov, and Samurcanesti.

Mogosoia Palace is part of UNESCO heritage. The Church within Snagov Monastery preserves the tomb of Vlad the Impaler, known also as Vlad Dracula. However, the historical heritage of the county remains difficult to reach because of the poor status of local roads and isolation that characterize their location.

Other buildings of touristic interest are: the Palace of Alexandru Ghica Family, Olympic Centre „Sydney 2000” of the Romanian Olympic Committee in the village Ciolpani – Izvorani, „Green Paradise” from Corbeanca – a quarter of villas built on the lake side.

Capital surroundings are part of the Romanian Plain and rivers as Arges, Najlov, Sabar, Dambovita cross the remaining areas of old Forests of Vlasia, offering to its guest's beach and fishing conditions.

Recreational areas: Forest and Lake Snagov, forest and lake Caldarusani, forest and lake Cernica, Forest Pustnicul, lake Pantelimon, forest and lake Mogosoia, forest Raioasa.

Touristic sights: The Palace Brancoveanu from Mogosoia, Monastery Caldarusani, Monastery Cernica, Monastery Pasarea, Monastery Snagov, Monastery Samurcanesti, Monastery Tiganesti, Monastery Sf. Nicolae, Balamuci, Monastery Sf. Nicolae of the former Balteni Hermitage.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Bucaresti-Ilfov district:

Project 1.

<p>Title and address of the project: Development of tourism infrastructure in Moara Vlăsiei area, Moara Vlăsiei commune, investments in cultural, recreational and sport tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The area is located 10 minutes from Bucharest, (Km 15 Bucharest-Ploiesti Highway), in a landscape untouched by civilization. Attractions: Ghica Palace (1837) Investments possibilities: establishment / reconstruction of buildings that function as: visitors centers, exhibitions, multi-purpose halls, for training, conferences and consulting services in business, information points for tourists.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local governments Ilfov County Council Moara Vlăsiei Hall Ministry of Economy National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises</p>	
<p>Contact person Mayor of Moara Vlăsiei commune: Andrei Filip, E-mail: <a href="mailto:primar@primariemoaravlasiei.ro">primar@primariemoaravlasiei.ro</a> Telefon: 0755 149 915 Adresă: Șos. Eroilor, Nr. 19, Moara Vlăsiei, Ilfov; Telefon: 021/267 21 35; Fax: 021/267 20 56;</p>	
<p>Other information: Photos: <a href="http://www.moaravlasiei.ro/">http://www.moaravlasiei.ro/</a></p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Bucaresti-Ilfov district:

Project 2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Development of tourism infrastructure in the village Gruiu, / investments in religious and recreational tourism</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Gruiu commune is famous for Căldărușani monastery, point of Romanian spirituality. The area is a very picturesque and because Căldărușani Lake, which has a length of about 4.5 km, together with lakes Vlasia and Cociovaliștea, located west of the monastery. Besides the flora of the lake (floating islands, lily) lake has a rich fish fauna. Căldărușani Forest (Woods Vlasiei once) intertwines with the monastery situated on the other side of the water. In these places, investors can develop tourism infrastructure such as recreational areas for visitors, plans and tourist information panels, and even parking where appropriate.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gruiu commune Hall</li> <li>• Ilfov County Council</li> <li>• Ministry of Economy</li> <li>• National Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises</li> </ul>	
<p>Contact person Samoilă Ion, Mayor of Gruiu commune Address: Sat Gruiu, Șoseaua Gruiu-Snagov, nr.152 cod poștal 077115 Tel/fax +40 021 350 8008, e-mail <a href="mailto:contact@primariagruiu.ro">contact@primariagruiu.ro</a> web address <a href="http://www.primariagruiu.ro">www.primariagruiu.ro</a> Agentia Nationala pentru Intreprinderi Mici si Mijlocii si Cooperatie, Website: <a href="http://www.animmc.ro/">http://www.animmc.ro/</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Photo: <a href="http://www.manastirea-caldarusani.go.ro">www.manastirea-caldarusani.go.ro</a></p>	

## *CALARASI*

Located in the south-east of Romania, in the Romanian Plain, on the left bank of the Danube, at the border with Bulgaria, Calarasi County has seen, with passing ages, all stages of historical development of the Romanian people. The latest archaeological discoveries prove the existence of human society into Calarasi space ever since the early Neolithic which is richly illustrated by the presence of two local cultures: Boian and Gumelnita.

As Danube bordering county has great but under-exploited touristic attraction, there are nine sites „Natura 2000” of which seven validated by the European Commission. The large number of islands with an unprecedented picturesque, branching the main courses of the Danube through unlikes arms, creating both natural environments that predispose to relax and good conditions for the practice of hunting and fishing. In that regard we mention the three nature reservations: Ciocanesti Island, Haralambie Island and Soimul Island. At Sarulesti there are annual national championships of sport fishing organized, and in 2000 was organized the world championship of sport fishing, establishing an unrivaled record – a specimen of 40 kg. Also, on the River Mostistea is landscaped a chain of lakes for fishing, including Pond Cojesti with an area of 17 ha and Pond Zimbru wich is not far from the town with the same name.

Areas formed by the Danube which delineates the county in the south and south-east on a length of 152 km, are extremely rich and designed to be highlighted. Damming enclosures between the Danube River and Borcea arm with an area of about 30.000 ha, natural channels of forest vegetation, flora and fauna look to the visitors like a wonderful landscape of the Danube Delta. This touristic potential is less than 130 km from Bucharest and around 100 km from Constanta and Black Sea.

A special attraction represents the historical cultural and architectural objectives of Calarasi County, which include the Oltenita Museum of Archaeology founded in 1957 based on donations. The building, built in 1926 by architect Ion Cernescu, houses artifacts of Neolithic culture Gumelnita, tools, pottery, figurines, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic vessels, harpoons, stone axes, treasures of the first millennium BC, jewelry treasures from Colibasi, Chirnogi. Another important cultural objective is the Lower Danube Museum in Calarasi City, which is a museum of archaeology and history of Calarasi county.

Among the objectives of religious tourism practiced in the area there are old monasteries, considered monuments of history and religious architecture, as the church of the former Monastery Negoesti and also the church of the Monastery Plataresti, both built between 1642-1659 during the reign of Matei Basarab, being remarkable by the composition of architectural forms and the interior murals.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Calarasi district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Development of infrastructure for ecotourism Chirnogi, Borcea, Ciocanesti, Oltenita/Natural re- servations on Danube, eco-tourism /</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Providing access ways on land and river in the natural reservations on Danube, under conditions of environment protection</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: County Council of Calarasi, Local councils</p>	
<p>Contact person: County Council of Calarasi, Calarași, str.1 Decembrie 1918, nr.1, 910019, Tel: +40 242 311 301; +40 242 311 302; Calarasi Web page: <a href="http://www.primaria-ciocanesti.ro">www.primaria-ciocanesti.ro</a></p>	
<p>Title and address of the project: Touristic infrastructure, leisure tourism/utility net- work development</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Extending and modernizing utility network for hostels, which represents the main local tourism infrastructure</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Council of Calarasi County, Local Municipalities</p>	
<p>Contact person: County Council of Calarasi, Calarași, str.1 Decembrie 1918, nr.1, 910019, jud.Călărași, Tel: +40 242 311 301; <a href="mailto:cjcalarasi@calarasi.ro">cjcalarasi@calarasi.ro</a>, <a href="http://www.calarasi.ro">www.calarasi.ro</a> Local Council of Oltenita City, Oltenita, B-dul Republicii nr. 64, Tel: 0242 515770, <a href="http://www.primariaoltenita.ro">www.primariaoltenita.ro</a> Local Council of Chirnogi , Comuna Chirnogi, <a href="http://www.primariachirnogi.ro">www.primariachirnogi.ro</a> Local Council of Borcea, Comuna Borcea, Str. Calarasi nr.424, Telefon: +40 242 340063 , <a href="mailto:primariabor-&lt;br/&gt;cea@yahoo.com">primariabor- cea@yahoo.com</a>, <a href="http://www.ecomagazin.ro/wp-&lt;br/&gt;content/uploads/2008/08/copac-privat.jpg">http://www.ecomagazin.ro/wp- content/uploads/2008/08/copac-privat.jpg</a></p>	

## *IALOMITA*

Located in southeastern Romania, at the intersection of important trade routes, Ialomita County is the transit area between Bucharest, Moldova and the Romanian coast.

Fauna and flora of this county are characteristic of the steppe environment, forest and aquatic environment, and they are ideal for hunting and fishing. Ialomita County has an accommodation capacity of over 3000, of which 473 in hotels, villas and over 600 in motels, 1540 in hospitals for treatment in Amara Spa and 300 in summer school camps in Amara.

The most important touristic place of the county is Amara Spa, located at 7 km from Slobozia and 126 km from Bucharest, known for medicinal mineral waters and sapropelic mud used in the treatment of rheumatologic and dermatological diseases.

In Slobozia – county capital - there are many tourist attractions, among them the most important are: Museum of history, archaeology, art and ethnography, Monastery “Sf. Voievozi-Slobozia “Slobozia of Ianache” built in 1634 by Prince Matei Basarab which encloses the “Sf. Voievozi” Church from 1618 (with 6 meters high walls, church belfry built in 1836 and church museum), Episcopal Cathedral of Slobozia, “Adormirea Maicii Domnului” Church built in 1964 and Ethnographic Exhibition from County Museum of Ialomita.

Also, Hermes Holiday Park located near Slobozia, is a point of touristic interest.

In the city of Fetesti, which is port on the Danube, there is a Museum of traditional agricultural machine tools, „Sf. Nicolae” Church built in 1884 and the Railway bridge over the Danube can be admired, a true masterpiece of engineering, carried out by Anghel Saligny in 1890 which, on its achievement, was the longest bridge in Europe.

City of Tandarei is famous for the traditional fair „Day of the Cross” which is held on 14 September since 1839.

Ialomita county’s touristic landscape also includes: a dam and an artificial lake in Dridu, the monastery-monument Pitesteanu, the Getic fortress from Crasani Peak built in III-I century B.C., the crosses carved in stone used to mark boundaries between properties or the foundation year of a village, several old monasteries and churches built between XVII-XVIII centuries which may meet in a unique spiritual path.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Ialomita district:

Project 1.

<p>Title and address of the project : Amara /balneological tourism / construction of wind farms and solar energy facilities.</p>	<p>Photo: Amara Spa, Ialomita County</p>
<p>Brief description: Developing the necessary infrastructure in order to increase attractiveness of the area as a touristic destination for treatment and recreation. Exploitation of natural resources by using high potential, existing in the area of renewable energy represented by solar and wind energies.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Council of Ialomita County Municipality of Amara</p>	
<p>Contact person</p>	
<p>Other relevant information</p>	

### 3.6 COUNTIES OF BULGARIA

#### *VIDIN DISTRICT*

Natural and cultural attractions of Vidin district make the region an appealing location for different types of tourism. Development of eco-tourism, hunting and fishing tourism in the area is favored by the existence of the following resources:

“Biosphere Reserve – Chuprene” with area of 1,439 ha is included in the UNESCO list. In Vidin district, there are also several protected areas, species and natural attractions. These include the world-famous rock formations - Belogradchik Rocks, Borov Kamak, Chuturite and the caves Magura and Venets.

Hunting and game breeding estate “Midjur” is located near the town of Belogradchik. It offers excellent conditions for hunting of rare species.

Rabisha Lake is the largest in Northwestern Bulgaria with an area of 3250 ha. A camping lies 100 m. from its southern coast;

The dam near Poletkovtsi village is suitable for sports fishing and hunting. It is one of the cleanest water reservoirs in the region.

Recreation area “Bojuritsa” is located 18 km southwest of the town of Vidin. There are good conditions for short and long-term recreation within the forest parks in the area.

Recreation area “Belogradchik” covers the town with its unique natural phenomenon rocks and the Belogradchik fortress.

Recreation area “Ratsiaria” is located just 17 km south of Vidin on the Danube River bank. Overgrown with acacia, oak and ash, it reveals picturesque panoramic river views. In the area, there are good conditions for a short rest along the river coast, fishing, hiking and cognitive tourism and private villa holiday.

The Danube River provides excellent conditions for the development of water tourism in the district. Every year in August, Vidin hosts the traditional international regatta TID that has celebrated 50th anniversary of its establishment in 2005. Falkovets River offers excellent conditions for development of water slalom and extreme sports.

The Magura cave, located in Rabishkata mound (461 m altitude), offers excellent conditions for cave tourism. The cave is one of rare beauty and diversity of natural landmarks in Bulgaria. Part of the cave is electrified. Its underground labyrinths have a length of about 2.5 km with spectacular halls, stalactites and stalagmites, and rare cave formations. The rock paintings preserved in it date back to IX-VIII century BC and are considered unique masterpieces of prehistoric art in Southeastern Europe. Near Slanotran village (Vidin municipality), there is a spring of highly mineralized thermal waters with a high content of iodine, bromine and others, suitable for extraction of chemical components for the pharmaceutical industry and for balneology purposes.

Each year, the district hosts exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, woodcarving, regional and international festivals of folk songs and dances. Major cultural events in the Vidin region are:

- International Folklore Festival “Dancing along the Danube”
- Fair for authentic folklore “Danubian Rhythms”
- International Festival of Roma song and dance “For peace”
- Fair of Folk Art “From Timok to Midjur”
- Annual Vidin Fair
- Dimitrovdan – Day of Vidin
- Fairs are organized annually in each of the municipalities

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Vidin district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Extension of the “Danube bicycle route”</p>	
<p>Short description: The project aims at the development of cross-border tourism along the River Danube. It expands the well-known cycle route along the Danube from Budapest to the Black Sea, to develop and promote various forms of tourism on the Danube and to promote cycling tourism along the Danube between Bulgaria and Romania.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local tourist companies, local and international tourists, cyclists, hikers, river lovers, eco-tourists, campers, etc.</p>	
<p>Contact details: Agency for Regional Development and Business Center-Vidin 77, Hristo Botev Str., Vidin 3700 Tel./fax: +359 94 600 017, 600 018, 600 129 E-mail: <a href="mailto:office@bevidin.org">office@bevidin.org</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The estimated duration 18 months.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: “Baba Vida fortress-a gate through the millenia”, Vidin municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The main goal of the project is to reveal the medieval appearance of the fortress. This requires additional investments in construction works and displays. Buildings which date back to the period of Ottoman Rule surround the fortress.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local authorities</p>	
<p>Contact details: Municipality of Vidin 2, Bdintsi Sqr., Vidin 3700 Tel.: +359 94 609 416 Fax: +359 94 601 132 e-mail: <a href="mailto:kmet@vidin.bg">kmet@vidin.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The project will be done at several stages, each of which is planned to take 3 years. The project is valued at EUR 2 million and is ongoing from the end of 2009. Public-private partnership options are available for the construction of accommodation and tourist facilities near the fortress.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Vidin district:

Project 3-4.

<p>Title and address of the project: “Historical Complex “Magura” - past for future generations”, Belogradchik municipality, Rabisha village</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project activities include archaeological research and conservation works done by experts. A thorough restoration and preservation study of the rock paintings will be done in the cave. Since the Magura cave is one of the main natural attractions in the area, there are opportunities for investors for the construction of accommodation and leisure facilities near the cave.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Belogradchik municipality and local companies in the field of crafts and tourism.</p>	
<p>Contact details: Belogradchik municipality 6, Knyaz Boris I Str, Belogradchik 3900 Tel.: +359 936 531 61 Fax: +359 936 532 48 email: <a href="mailto:mayorbelogradchik@abv.bg">mayorbelogradchik@abv.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The first stage of the project is financed by the EEA mechanism (EUR 399,430) with 24 months.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Tourism and sports complex, Chuprene village</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The plot allocated for the project is regulated municipal property with an area of 2.8 ha. There is an opportunity to build a holiday village resort and other facilities near it. The site is open to magnificent views. The area is terraced and prepared for the investment. There is a well-developed infrastructure and the possibility to quickly join the road and have access to water, sewerage, power and internet</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Companies and organizations of tourism.</p>	
<p>Contact details: Chuprene municipality 55, Asen Balkanski Str., Chuprene village 3950 Tel.: +359 9327 400 Fax: +359 9327 580 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ob_chuprene@abv.bg">ob_chuprene@abv.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

### *MONTANA DISTRICT*

Montana district is outside the traditional tourist areas but close to areas of tourist attractions that can supplement its own supply and create opportunities for the development of regional tourism products, particularly with the districts of Vidin and Vratsa. There are the several natural and geographical conditions, highlighting the potential for tourism development in Montana district:

Presence of mineral springs (seven in the municipalities of Varshets and Berkovitsa); The Balkan Mountain provides numerous opportunities for skiing, eco- and rural tourism, hunting tourism. Peak Kom (2016 m) and the surroundings of Berkovitsa create conditions for skiing. There is an active ski slope with a length of 1400 m and displacement of 170 m. The peak is the starting point for many tourist routes, including international hiking route E-3 (from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean); eco-routes have been established in several municipalities; There are monuments of cultural heritage - four monasteries, ruins of ancient castles, the clock tower in Berkovitsa, architectural ensembles. Attractive to visit, with the potential to become tourist attractions are the Klisura Monastery (near Berkovitsa), Chiprovtsi Monastery, Lopushanski monastery (George Damyanovo village), Dobridolski monastery (Dobri dol village); The Danube River, Ogosta Dam near the town of Montana and many small waterways create opportunities for water, fishing and other types of tourism.

Berkovitsa and Varshets municipalities are evaluated as ones with the most favorable conditions for tourism development. Municipalities with so far untapped potential are Chiprovtsi and Georgi Damyanovo. There are underutilized opportunities for the development of river tourism on the Danube in the municipalities of Lom and Vulchedrum.

Tourism has a smaller share in the regional economy. Related services and other industries can lead to diversification of the economic activities in order to overcome the underdevelopment in the mountainous and rural areas and to reduce migration and thus, the negative impact of demographic crisis. The lack of investments for the renovation of facilities and the poor condition of access roads to tourist sites has a retaining effect on the development of tourism in the district.

In the past few years, new tourist sites have been established, offering shelter, although with a smaller capacity - houses for rural tourism in the mountainous municipalities of Berkovitsa and Chiprovtsi and shelter sites around the mineral springs in Varshets municipality. The implementation of a major project for skiing with the construction of a new hotel, lift, ski tunnel for year-round use and other attractions is foreseen in the next years in the municipality of Berkovitsa.

The main cultural events that can attract tourists in the district include:

- National festival of brass bands “Diko Iliev” (every 2 years)
- International folklore festival “The Balkan dances and sings”
- International festival for children’s songs “Lacheni obuvki”
- National rock festival “Berkfest”
- International summer seminar in wood and plastics

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Montana district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Construction of a sports complex in the town of Boychinovtsi, Boychinovtsi municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The terrain dedicated for the project implementation has an area of 4 ha. The complex will provide an opportunity for hosting regional and national sports competitions in addition to the leisure opportunities and tourism facilities. The site is located 20 km away from main road E-79 (Sofia-Vidin-Western Europe).</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Boychinovtsi municipality and companies in the field of tourism.</p>	
<p>Contact details: Municipality of Boychinovtsi 2, Gavril Genov Str., Boychinovtsi 3430 Tel.: +359 9513 22 36 Fax: + 359 9513 25 84 E-mail: munb@mail.orbitel.bg</p>	
<p>Other information: The expected duration of the project is 18 months around EUR 500,000.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Ecopark for recreation and tourism, Varshets municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The municipality has already rebuilt the entrance of the park, playgrounds, and service buildings wooden benches, pergolas, playgrounds with sandstone, irrigation system, lighting, etc. A summer scene has been constructed. Near the park there a number of investment opportunities for construction of 3-4* tourist facilities.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Varshets municipality</p>	
<p>Contact details: Municipality of Varshets 10, Bulgaria Blvd., Varshets 3540 Tel.: +359 9527 22 22 Fax: +359 9527 23 23 E-mail: admin_varshetz@mail.bg</p>	
<p>Other information: The first stage of the project was financed under the EU-Phare programme (EUR 328,565)</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Montana district:

Project 3-4.

<p>Title and address of the project: Sports and tourist complex “Berkovski Balkan”, Berkovitsa municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The complex is planned to have 25 kilometers of ski runs, 6 lifts and hotel facilities with capacity of about 5,000 beds. According to the plan, the complex will open about 2,000 jobs in the municipality of Berkovitsa.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Berkovitsa municipality, private investors</p>	
<p>Contact details: Glavbulgarstroy JSCo 3-5, Damianitsa Str., Sofia 1619 Tel: +359 2 915 16 02 Fax: +359 2 957 10 88</p>	
<p>Other information: Total estimated budget is around EUR 100 million. The project is ongoing since the end of 2007.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Reconstruction and extension of an existing building into a holiday resort with a sports complex and a restaurant, Georgi Damyanovo municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project envisages reorganization, additional construction and reconstruction of the existing main building and its transformation into a 2* hotel with restaurant, indoor swimming pool and a sports complex. The project foresees construction of green areas with an outdoor swimming pool, pool bar, lounges area, parking lots, football field with artificial turf, hotel building with a large lobby and reception, kitchen, restaurant with 75 seats, conference hall, indoor swimming pool, sauna, jakuzzi, service facilities (warehouse, laundry room, boiler and machine rooms, etc.).</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local authorities and entrepreneurs</p>	
<p>Contact details: Georgi Damyanovo municipality</p>	

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E-mail: [gd3470@mail.bg](mailto:gd3470@mail.bg)



## *VRATSA DISTRICT*

The territory of Vratsa District has prerequisites for the development of various forms of traditional and alternative tourism. Most common is the pedestrian tourism, often identified with the mountain tourism practiced in the Southern mountainous part of Vratsa District. Numerous protected areas are of interest to the mountain lovers. Nature Park “Vratchan Balkan”, “Vratsa Karst”, “Skaklia” - the highest waterfall in Bulgaria (141 m); “Vratsa” passage of Leva River near the town of Vratsa, the highest sheer limestone cliffs of the Balkan Peninsula (altitude of 400 meters) with marked alpine routes, “Ritlite” – natural rock formation near the village of Lyuti Brod, “God's Bridge” - a natural rock bridge and the karst spring “Jabokrek” near the village Lilyache; “Chervenitsa” rock formations near the village Kunino, field of yellow water rose in the “Barduche” area near the town of Kozloduy, protected “wet” areas near the dam “Shishmanov val” where intermediate stations for rare migratory birds are situated, etc.

Sports tourism offers lovers of extreme sports cycling tours combined with visits of natural and cultural attractions, mountaineering and rock climbing in the region of “Vratsa” passage, tourist orientation along a route; visiting caves in their natural state that are still unlit, trekking with ski and snowshoes, skiing near the “Gorski dom” and “Parshevitsa” chalets; Iskar river rafting; horse riding near the “Ledenika” cave; delta and para planning near the peak Okoltchitsa.

Rural tourism provides the opportunity to identify and live with local people, engage in farming - cultivation of crops and livestock, to try their skills in craft activities and everything that is part of the everyday life in a typical Bulgarian village. There is a potential for rural tourism development in the rural areas of: Karash (Roman municipality), Ochin dol (Mezdra municipality), etc.

Eco-tourism in Vratsa district is well developed and attracts many tourists offering an interesting way for raising environmental awareness. Visiting the established eco trails in the Vratsa Balkan contributes to the study of biodiversity of flora and fauna in the district, conservation of the ecosystems and their enrichment with species characteristic of habitats.

Besides the mass of tourists visiting the caves located in Vratsa district, they are attractive for their uniqueness also for cavers. Specific flora and fauna, unique cave formations are the cause of the great interest in caves within the Nature Park “Vratchan Balkan”. In the district are located over 500 of the most interesting caves and chasms in Bulgaria. The most famous of them include: the first utilized cave in Bulgaria – “Ledenika”, “Dragon's Hole”, the “New” cave near the village of Lyuti Brod, Cherepishka cave near the village of Cherepish, “Gardyova dupka” near Zgorigrad and many more.

Cultural-cognitive tourism is powered by monasteries, museums, galleries, cultural monuments of historical, archaeological and artistic value of local and national significance. An appealing route is “The way of the monasteries” which includes 5 monasteries.

There are good prerequisites for the development of river tourism in the municipalities bordering the Danube. Near the town of Oryahovo and the coastal villages, there is a sandy beach that could be used for summer recreation for the local population and its guests.

The territory of Vratsa District has conditions for development of organized hunting and fishing tourism, but still there is not enough supply of such packages by the tour operators.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Vratsa district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Creating a multi-functional center for key conservation activities within the Natural Park “Vrachanski Balkan” (“Forest Home”), “Vratchanski Balkan” Nature Park Administration</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Construction of multi-purpose center for key conservation activities “Forest Home”; implementation of pilot projects to protect and improve the status of endangered plant and animal species and damaged habitats of European importance of the Park: “Neophron” for endangered species “Plants” for protection of endangered plant species “Habitats” for endangered habitats</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Nature protecting NGOs, local communities of the Nature park.</p>	
<p>Contact details: “Vratchanski Balkan” Nature Park Administration 1, Ivanka Boteva Str., Vratsa 3000 Tel: +359 92 66 58 49 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vratchanskybalkan@abv.bg">vratchanskybalkan@abv.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The overall budget: EUR 250,000 with duration of 3</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Construction of a Multifunctional center for key conservation activities “Natura 2000”, Club “Friends of Nature Park Vrachanski Balkan” with partner House of Science and Technology in Vratsa</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project aims to preserve the building of the mosque, and to transform it into a modern information center for tourism activities and ecological network "Natura 2000", covering the territory of the Nature Park “Vrachanski Balkan”.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: “Vratchanski Balkan” Nature Park Administration</p>	
<p>Contact details: “Vratchanski Balkan” Tel: +359 92 66 58 49 1, Ivanka Boteva Str., Vratsa 3000 e-mail: <a href="mailto:vratchanskybalkan@abv.bg">vratchanskybalkan@abv.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The project is financed under the EU-Phare. Additional investment is required</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Vratsa district:

Project 3-4.

<p>Title and address of the project: Integrated tourist complex “Kaleto”, Mezdra municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project foresees the reconstruction of the fortress “Kaleto”, which was erected in Roman times for guarding the Balkan passages. Later, it has also been used as a stronghold by the Byzantium Empire and by the Bulgarians during the Middle Ages. The project also envisages the construction of an administrative building with premises for hosting an archaeological exhibition, coffee shops, a restaurant, a meeting hall, an alley with artisans’ shops (textiles, goldsmiths, ceramics, etc.) and a tourist information center “Bulgarian Northwest”.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Mezdra municipality and entrepreneurs in the tourism sector</p>	
<p>Contact details: Mezdra municipalitydra@mail.bg 27, Hristo Botev Str., Mezdra 3100 mez Tel.: +359 910 92016 Fax: +359 910 92523</p>	
<p>Other information: The complex is located at the entrance of the town of Mezdra, 1 km away from the international road E-79. Investment amount: EUR 1 million.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Extension of eco-path “God’s bridge”, Vratsa municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Under a previous project, the area has been cleaned and refined, and benches and fences have been placed. This project is part of the future landscape park “Ponora” near the villages of Lilyache and Chiren developed by the Bulgarian Association for Rural and Ecological Tourism.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Vratsa municipality and Bulgarian Association for Rural and Ecological Tourism</p>	
<p>Contact details: Vratsa municipality E-mail: <a href="mailto:kmet@vratza.bg">kmet@vratza.bg</a> 6, Stefanaki Savov Str., Vratsa 3000 Tel.: +359 92 663 117 Fax: +359 92 623 061</p>	

<p>Other information: The first project has been financed by a state Enterprise</p>	
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### *PLEVEN DISTRICT*

The whole area of Pleven district is rich in historical and cultural monuments. In the area of Balana, East of Lukovit, a Thracian silver treasure was discovered, known as the Lukovit Treasure. Opportunities for the development of eco- and spa tourism in the district provide “Krushuna” and “Steneto” reserves, which attract tourists with their virgin nature and natural phenomena - caves, waterfalls and mineral springs.

A major attraction is the archaeological reserve “Ulpia Eskus” near the village of Gigen and the “Shishmanova fortress” near Nikopol. The nature park “Persina”, which is one of the youngest in the country, is located on the territory of three municipalities in the district (Nikopol, Belene and Svishtov). The park covers the Belene-Svishtov lowlands and some islands along the Danube River.

A grouping of cultural and historical sights is found at several points: Baikal, Gigen, Nikopol, Pleven, Dolni Dabnik and Pordim. This allows the development of convenient tourist routes that also include the Danube River and several axes to unite the efforts of tourist companies to maximize the use of available resources and to capitalize them.

The major cultural and historical sights that can be of interest to the tourists in the district include:

- Late antiquity and early Byzantium basilica “Storgozia”
- Park museum “General Lavrov”
- Mausoleum of the fallen Romanian warriors, Grivitsa village
- Museum “Headquarters of the Russian army 1877-1878”, Pordim
- Antique Roman city Dimum near Belene
- Antique Roman fortress Lucernaria Burgon near the village of Somovit
- Antique Roman settlement Utus near Gulyantsi
- Prahistorical and antique settlements near the villages of Dabovan and Zagrajden
- Antique city Palacium and antique necropolis near the village of Baykal
- A number of other monuments dedicated to the Liberation of Bulgaria
- Mausoleum chapel “St. Georgi”, house-museum “Tsar Liberator”, house-museum “Stoyan and Vladimir Vazovi”, park-museum “Skobelev”, museum complex “Regional historical museum”, Panorama “Pleven epos 1877”

Another sub-sector of tourism, which has not yet been developed but has potential, is congress and gastronomy tourism. In the vast green park “Kaylaka” in Pleven there are luxurious and traditional restaurants. Horse and wine tourism in the district also prove opportunities for investment.

The main cultural events in the district are:

- International music festival “Katya Popova” (every 2 years)
- Holidays of Bulgarian and Russian culture
- National competition for Bulgarian dramaturgy
- International pleinair for painting (every 2 years)
- National biennale of short forms

- International biennale in photography
- National festival of avant-garde videofilm “Artvision”, etc.
- Each year the town of Nikopol hosts the “Holidays of culture near the Danube river” festival

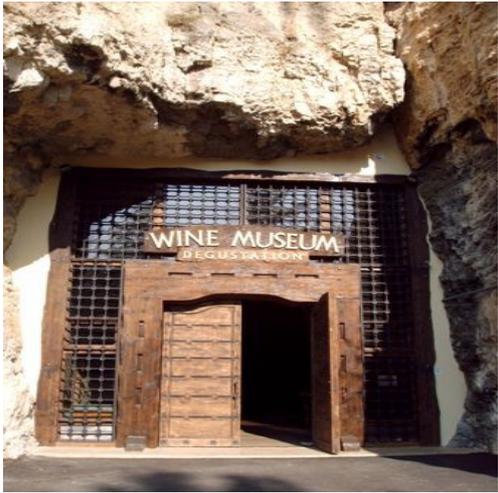
The introduction of the major tourism projects in Pleven district:

Project 1.

<p>Title and address of the project: Integrated development of sustainable tourism in Pleven region, Pleven municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The main objective of the project is to increase the contribution of tourism to sustainable socio-economic development of Pleven municipality through the provision of cultural and historical programs in conjunction with specific and attractive tourist services.</p> <p>The project envisages repairs of the Panorama “Plevenska Epopeia 1877”, restoration and preservation of the Historical stone bridge and the Monument of Victory on the River Vit (Yasen village), restoration of the ancient fortress “Storgozia” and investment intervention in the Protected Area “Kaylaka”.</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local population and tourists, local authorities, companies working in the field of tourism and others</p>	
<p>Contact details: Pleven municipality 2, Vazrajdana Sqr., Pleven 5800 Tel.: +359 64 881 200 Fax: +359 64 844 230 <a href="mailto:mayor@pleven.bg">mayor@pleven.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The estimated project value is EUR 3 million.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Pleven district:

Project 2-3.

<p>Title and address of the project: Reconstruction, management and maintenance of a swimming complex in Pleven</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The terrain is located in Eastern industrial zone of Pleven. The projects envisages the reconstruction and operation of a large outdoor swimming pool, a small outdoor swimming pool, one-storey building containing indoor swimming pool and adjacent basement, one-storey building with a restaurant, covered terrace, cocktail bar, and service rooms</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Pleven Municipality</p>	
<p>Contact details: Pleven municipality 2, Vazrajdane Sqr., Pleven 5800 Tel.: +359 64 881 200 Fax: +359 64 844 230 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mayor@pleven.bg">mayor@pleven.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Concession can be granted for up to 20 years.</p>	
<p>Title and address of the project: Wine Museum Kaylaka by “Chateau Kaylaka” and “Word Wines”</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: This is a private project for the establishment of a wine museum in the Kaylaka area, Pleven. The exhibition is arranged in five cave galleries with a total area of 650 square meters. The museum collection consists of over 7,000 bottles of wine aged between 30 and 90 years. The museum is located in a cave in the Kaylaka park,</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Private companies.</p>	
<p>Contact details: 1, Totlebenov Val Str., Pleven 5800 Kaylaka National Park Tel.: + 359 887 73 15 37 E-mail : <a href="mailto:winemuseum@mail.bg">winemuseum@mail.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: Bulgarian and French architects, wine experts have worked under the project for the development of the museum</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Pleven district:

Project 4.

Title and address of the project: Multifunctional community complex in Levski	Photo about the area or connected to the topic
<p><b>Brief description:</b> The terrain for the investment (5,555 sq. m, municipal and state land) is located in the central part of the town of Levski next to the central town square.</p> <p>The complex will have an indoor market, restaurants of different types (with a total of 200 seats), commercial and warehouse space, entertainment and cultural facilities, office space, outdoor landscaped areas, seating and recreation facilities, parking lots, etc.</p>	
<p><b>Potential stakeholders:</b> Levski municipality</p>	
<p><b>Contact details:</b> Municipality of Levski 58, Bulgaria Blvd., Levski 5900 Tel.: (+359 650) 82448 Fax: (+359 650) 83195 E-mail: <a href="mailto:oblevski@abv.bg">oblevski@abv.bg</a></p>	
<p><b>Other information:</b> Project stage – conceptual design. Estimated value of investment: EUR 800,000.</p>	

### *VELIKO TARNOVO DISTRICT*

Veliko Tarnovo district has excellent conditions and provides a number of opportunities for tourism development. These are determined by the availability of natural and anthropogenic conditions and recreational resources. The district has the largest concentration of cultural and historical monuments in the country. On its territory, around 140 cultural monuments of national importance (about 15% of all in the country) are located, concentrated almost entirely in the municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo (67%), Svishtov (11%) and Elena (8%).

The area has rich historical heritage. Here, some of the most visited historical sites in Bulgaria are concentrated, such as the Tsarevets fortress in Veliko Tarnovo, the Samovodska bazaar (a street in Veliko Tarnovo keeping its look from the XIX century), the village of Arbanasi, the Renaissance town of Elena, the Roman fortress of Nicopolis ad Istrum, the remains of the Novae Roman military camp near Svishtov.

The visitors can also enjoy the densest concentration of monasteries in Bulgaria (called the “Turnovo Athos”) with about 15 monasteries (Preobrajenski, Patriarshenski, Petropavlovski, Kilifarevski, Kapinovski, Prisovski, Arbanassi, etc.). In addition, a relatively well-developed network of museums, including 13 museums in Veliko Tarnovo, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Pavlikeni, Svishtov and Elena, characterizes the district.

Veliko Tarnovo district has well-established traditions related to folklore, local customs, traditional crafts (e.g. in Samovodska bazaar) and industries (e.g. wine production), as well as periodic and episodic events (fairs, festivals, congresses, etc.). Natural resources as a whole cannot be considered unique due to the serious competition from other neighbouring districts.

Tourist accommodation facilities are concentrated mainly in Veliko Tarnovo (69%) and in 5 other municipalities (Gorna Oryahovitsa, Pavlikeni, Polski Trambesh, Svishtov and Elena). In the remaining 4 municipalities from the district (Zlataritsa, Lyaskovets, Strajitsa and Suhindol) there are no registered accommodation facilities according to official data.

Cultural and cognitive tourism has dominant importance for the district. Other types of well-developed tourism with distinctive short-stays are the business and congress tourism. Rather as an exception can be seen the development of some places for stationary stay (skiing and mountain recreation in Elena and balneotourism in Voneshta Voda). In recent years, there has been some development of rural tourism in the district although at a smaller scale.

There are four resorts on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo district (Elena and Zlataritsa - mountain resorts of local importance, Voneshta Voda and Ovcha Mogila - spa resorts of local importance). In view of this, the district cannot compete with a number of areas with high concentration of resorts on the Black Sea or in Southwest and South Central Bulgaria, but is among the few areas with relatively well-developed resorts in Northern Bulgaria.

Main cultural events in the district are:

- Annual summer opera festival in the open “Scene of the ages” (Veliko Tarnovo);
- “Balkanfolk” festival;
- International Folklore Festival;
- National Festival of bread;
- International seminar on Bulgarian language and culture;
- Satirical annual literary competition “Aleko” (Shvishtov).

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Veliko Tarnovo district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: “Novae - the heart of the Legion”, Shvishtov municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The project aims at the socialization and exposure of the Principle and other objects in the Roman military camp and Il Baptisterio in Novae (near Svishtov). The project will improve the condition of the antic settlement and will restore some of the findings in Novae. The project also envisages improvement of the service infrastructure</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local authorities and tour operators</p>	
<p>Contact details: 2, Tsanko Tserkovski Str., Svishtov 5250 Tel.: +359 631 60 854, 60 688 Fax: +359 631 60 504 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina@svishtov.bg">obshtina@svishtov.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The project is partly financed with EUR 3.3 million under OP "Regional Development" and will be implemented in the period 2011-2013.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Park Kaleto – a park of the artists, Shvishtov municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Under the project, the first phase of a cultural center in the park Kaleto was built with two scenes (a small and a large one - with tiers of seats available to the public under the walls of the ancient fortress). Artistic lighting was also installed. The second stage requires private investment for improvement of the tourist infrastructure and construction of leisure facilities.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: citizens of Shvishtov, tourists visiting the town, companies working in the field of tourism</p>	
<p>Contact details: 2, Tsanko Tserkovski Str., Svishtov 5250 Tel.: +359 631 60 854, Fax: +359 631 60 504 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina@svishtov.bg">obshtina@svishtov.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The first stage of the project was financed by a donor programme and local budget in 2005.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Veliko Tarnovo district:

Project 3-4.

<p>Title and address of the project: Enhancement of tourist attractions and related infrastructure on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The activities include: conservation, restoration and exhibition of the church “St. Ivan Rilski”; the Temple “St. St. Apostles Peter and Paul” (Kliment Ohridski Str.); conservation, restoration and exhibition of the Bishop's bridge; construction works for a Multimedia visitors center “Tsarevgrad Tarnov”; functional organization of parking, road and tourist flows on Tsar Asen I Sqr. and the adjacent streets and historical approaches to the “Tsarevets” Fortress.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local authorities and tour operators.</p>	
<p>Contact details: 2, Mother Bulgaria Sqr., Veliko Tarnovo 5000 Tel.: +359 62 619304 Fax: +359 62 627997 E-mail <a href="mailto:mayorvt@vt.bia-bg.com">mayorvt@vt.bia-bg.com</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The project is expecting funding under OP „Regional development and with a budget EUR 3.2 million and will be implemented until 2012.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: “Support for sustainable tourism development in the Municipality of Elena for integration of cultural and natural heritage”</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: The project activities: data collection, research and analysis of the trends in local development, exchange of know-how and dissemination of good practices in the areas of natural and cultural tourism, local agriculture, strategic projects.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Elena municipality and local entrepreneurs</p>	
<p>Contact details: Elena municipality 24, Ilarion Makariopolski Str., Elena 5070 Tel.: +359 6151 6261 Fax: +359 6151 6510 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina@elena.bg">obshtina@elena.bg</a></p>	

<p>Other information: The project was funded with EUR 120,000 was implemented in the period 2009-2010.</p>	
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## *RUSE DISTRICT*

Ruse district has many advantages as a tourism and transportation center. Its administrative center (the city of Ruse) is located on the Northern Bulgarian border at the River Danube at the junction of other important transport corridors. The Danube Bridge is a major communication and transportation, rail and road link with neighboring Romania. Ruse district has a special place in the Bulgarian history and has rich cultural heritage, incl. monuments of global importance as the Ivanovo rock churches. The area has valuable and unique natural features: the powerful resource of the Danube River, unique landscapes and many natural attractions. The main resources for tourism development include:

Danube riverside. The restoration of transport links and ports in the Danube villages will create conditions for development of tourism and accompanying services;

Nature reserve “Beli Lom” - located along the Beli Lom River, southeast of Vetovo town in the “Golyamata Korja” area;

Nature Park “Rusenski Lom”, which has been declared as a protected territory in 1970 and covers the river basins of Rusenski Lom - the last right tributary of the Danube and its tributaries between the villages of Svalenik, Pisanets, Koshov and Ivanovo. The rich biodiversity and landscape, together with the unique cultural heritage, make the park an attractive place for development of domestic and international tourism;

Fishponds near Mechka village and Vetovo – places for nesting of waterfowling and other birds;

The cave “Orlova Chuka”, located 35 km South of Ruse - the second longest in Bulgaria (over 12 km with the galleries). It is inhabited by 15 species of cave animals, including 8 species of bats;

The monastery “St. Marina” in Karan Varbovka village is the only place in Ruse, where there is an active mineral spring;

The wetland “Kalimok Brushlen” is a protected area, covering also a territory from the neighbouring district of Silistra;

Ecosystem in the valley of Yantra River - beautiful natural formations, located in two municipalities - Byala and Tsenovo.

Specific resources for tourism development provide the rich and unique architecture in the old town of Ruse from the late 19th and early 20th century (“Baroque” and “Secession” style made by Italian, Austrian, German and Bulgarian architects). The network of museum exhibitions in the Historical Museum of Ruse is very well developed. Among these are the Museum of urban life – “Calliope’s House” and the Museum of Transport, which are unique for the country.

The outlet of the district to the Danube determines the presence of traditions in fishing, fisheries, cuisine and food production of fishery products. Exotic environment and lifestyle in the so-called “Fishing villages”, combined with the opportunities for development of water sports are a significant resource for enriching the tourist product offered. Preserved traditions in local crafts may also be offered as a tourist attraction - copper age, carpentry, mining and stone processing by traditional methods, weaving, hand and machine embroidery with traditional motifs, etc.

The main cultural events in Ruse district include:

- International Festival “March Music Days”;
- Festival “Theatre Port of the Big River”;
- Folklore festival “Golden Fiddle”, etc.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Ruse district: Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: “Ruse - Ivanovo - Cherven: A Journey from Present to the Middle Ages”, Ruse and Ivanovo municipalities</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project aims at creating and presenting regional cultural routes, including the city of Ruse, the archaeological reserves in the villages of Ivanovo and Cherven and the protected area of Rusenski Lom Nature Park. A number of investment opportunities are available both in infrastructure (ecopaths and recreation centers) and in the establishment of tourist facilities (hotels, restaurants, guesthouses, etc.).</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: The municipalities of Ruse and Ivanovo, Ruse Municipal Tourism Council, Rusenski Lom Nature Park, the Regional History Museum, etc.</p>	
<p>Contact details: Ruse municipality: <a href="mailto:mayor@ruse-bg.eu">mayor@ruse-bg.eu</a> 6, Svoboda Sqr., Ruse 7000 Tel. +359 82 506 801</p>	
<p>Other information: The background project was financed by the EU-Phare programme (2003-2005).</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Weekend Tourism Fair and Tourist Entertainment and Animation Festival – Ruse, Ruse municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The annual Weekend Tourism Fair is organized every May to attract visitors for leisure and entertainment. Part of the fair is the Tourist Entertainment and Animation Festival providing an open scene for entertainment, attractions and animation products. There are opportunities for investors in the construction of congress and festival tourism facilities.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Municipality of Ruse and the Municipal Tourism Council, the Regional History Museum</p>	
<p>Contact details: Ruse municipality, 6, Svoboda Sqr., Ruse 7000 Tel. +359 82 506 801 <a href="mailto:mayor@ruse-bg.eu">mayor@ruse-bg.eu</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Ruse district:

Project 3-4.

<p>Title and address of the project: “By canoe to the wildlife of Rusenski Lom Nature park”, Ivanovo Municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project is oriented towards sustainable development of eco-tourism in the municipality of Ivanovo and active interaction between the municipal administration and the Directorate of Rusenski Lom Nature Park. There is an eco-tourist route and a visitors center in Ivanovo Village, a water trail and recreational and sports facilities in the area of the nature park. Additional investment is required for their expansion and sustainable management.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Municipality of Ivanovo and Rusenski Lom Nature Park administration</p>	
<p>Contact details: Ivanovo municipality 75, Olimpiiska Str, Ivanovo 7088 Tel./fax: +359 8116 22 53 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina@ivanovo.bg">obshtina@ivanovo.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The background project was financed by the EU-Phare programme and was implemented in 2005.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: Tourist information center Ivanovo, Ivanovo municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The center provides information about tourist attractions, infrastructure, investment opportunities in tourism and services in the municipality; offers specialized tourist products and tourist services, distribution of promotional materials and souvenirs, organization of tours and itineraries - accompanying group and individual tourists; participates in organizing culture, folklore and other programmes.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Ivanovo municipality.</p>	
<p>Contact details: Ivanovo municipality 75, Olimpiyska Str., Ivanovo 7088 Tel./fax: +359 8116 22 53 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dimitar.donchev@ivanovo.bg">dimitar.donchev@ivanovo.bg</a></p>	

## *SILISTRA DISTRICT*

Silistra District is located in the Northeastern part of Bulgaria, bordering Romania. Centuries were piling on the territory of Silistra different cultural values, subject to Thracian, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Renaissance influence. Almost two thirds of the area of the district was declared a national architectural and archeological reserve “Durostorum – Drustar – Silistra”.

The tourism potential of the district is based on the available natural and historical resources: Biosphere Reserve “Srebarna” - located 20 km west of Silistra on the road to Ruse. It is a protected area since 1948 and has international recognition;

Srebarna Lake is located on the banks of the Danube. It is a major “stop” along the so-called. Via Pontica, the most important migration route for birds flying among Europe, North and Central Africa. 50 species of birds included in the Red Book of protected species are found here together with 11 rare and endangered plant species;

Danube Park (14 ha), offering walks among exotic trees and gardens, visit of the architectural and archaeological reserve “Durostorum - Drustar – Silistra”, three renovated playgrounds, a swimming pool, two tennis courts and opportunities for sports fishing in the Danube

The cultural and historical resources in Silistra district include:

National architectural and archeological reserve “Durostorum - Drustar – Silistra” with ancient cultural and historical heritage, which, for over 2000 years, has affected many nations and civilizations. Ancient Durostorum, medieval Drustar and new Silistra are among the few cities in Bulgaria, the Balkan Peninsula and Europe, looking at the cultural continuity to today.

Among the main cultural and historical attractions are:

- Roman tomb with murals from IV century AD;
- Kourshoumlou Mosque (Silistra) - the building was built in the early decades of the XVI century and best reflects the mastery of Ottoman architects;
- Metropolitan Cathedral Church “St. Peter and Paul” and relics repository “St. Dasius Dorostolski”
- Part of the column of Khan Omurtag;
- North wall of the medieval Drustur;
- The medieval cathedral and bishop's patriarchal church of Drustar Silistra and patriarchal residence from X century;
- Dorostolski Bishops' Palace from V-VI century to the early Christian Episcopal basilica;
- Armenian Apostolic Church “Surp Astvadzadzin” from 1620;
- Nunnery “Pokrov Bogorodichen” Aydemir village;
- Dobrudjanska house, Alfatar town;
- Historical Area “Ayazmoto” in Ruyno village;
- Early-medieval fortress “Kartal Kale” near Ruyno village;
- Architectural Reserve “Ribarska mahala” in the town of Tutrakan;
- Female monastery near Kamentsi village.

There is strong potential for the development of hunting and fishing tourism on the territory of Silistra district. There are many dams where fishing can be practiced and certain endangered birds can be observed. Subject to hunting in the district can be: boar, badger, fox, wolf and jackal.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Silistra district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Binding ancient cities from Dobrudja Region in a tourist destination, Silistra municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Short description: Under a previous project, three-dimensional digital modeling of five ancient cities in Dobrudja region has been made: 3 in Romania and 2 in Bulgaria - Durostorum (Silistra) and Tutrakan, presenting the way they have looked during the Roman era and subsequent periods. Investments are sought for the development of the adjoining tourist infrastructure and facilities in Silistra municipality.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Silistra municipality</p>	
<p>Contact details: Silistra municipality 33 "Simeon Veliki" Str., Silistra 7500 Tel. +359 86 824 243 Fax +359 86 823 343 e-mail: <a href="mailto:mayor@silistra.bg">mayor@silistra.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The budget of the background project implemented in 2009 has been EUR 670,000.</p>	

<p>Title and address of the project: The Malopreslavsko Swamp – a kingdom of water lilies, Malak Preslavets village, Glavinitsa municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Rehabilitation and construction of tourism infrastructure around the "Malak Preslavets Swamp" protected area has been made. Additional investment in tourist facilities is for tourism - river tourism along the Danube River, rural tourism in the Malak Preslavets village, as well as tourism based on the cultural and historical background of the region.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Local population, companies occupied in tourism, eco tourists, "The Danube" Association of the Danube municipalities,</p>	
<p>Contact details: Glavinitsa municipality 44, Vitosha Str., Glavinitsa 7630 Tel. +359 8636 2040 Fax +359 8636 2284 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina@glavinitsa.bg">obshtina@glavinitsa.bg</a></p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Silistra district:

Project 3-4.

<p>Title and address of the project: Overhaul of the Ethnographical Museum “Danubian Fishing and Boat Construction”, rehabilitation of the Danube Park and existing public parks and areas adjacent to the Danube Park in the town of Tutrakan, Tutrakan municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description:</p> <p>The project envisages major renovation of the “Danubian Fishing and Boat Construction” Ethnographical Museum and completion of the second stage of the rehabilitation of the Danube Park in the municipality. Private investments are sought under the PPP principle for the construction of accommodation and leisure infrastructure for the tourists in the town of Tertian.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders:</p> <p>Tutrakan municipality</p>	
<p>Contact details:</p> <p>Tutrakan municipality 31, Transmariska Str., Tutrakan 7600 Tel.: +359 857 60 621; Fax: +359 857 60 636 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obs_tutrakan@b-trust.org">obs_tutrakan@b-trust.org</a></p>	
<p>Other information:</p> <p>Part of the funding for the project (EUR 779,333) is secured under the Rural Areas Development Programme, Measure 322 “Renovation of the populated areas</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Silistra district:

project 5.

<p>Title and address of the project: “Two nations and cultures - a common way of life and spirituality”, Alfatar municipality in partnership with the municipalities of Kaynardja and Sitovo (Bulgaria), Tchokanesht (Romania) and the Association for Cooperation and Development “Danube Dobrudja”</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project aims at overcoming the existing cultural differences between people and encouraging co-operation between local authorities, agricultural business, youth and civil communities.</p> <p>The activities include all-village festivals and other cultural events, specialized trainings in agriculture, collection, exchange and presentation of culture-historical, demographic and social information.</p> <p>Although the region has tourist potential, it is underdeveloped due to the lack of adequate tourist infrastructure (hotels, recreation facilities and sports centers, etc.), requiring the involvement of private investors, which will be welcome by the municipalities.</p>	 
<p>Potential stakeholders: Alfatar, Kaynardja and Sitovo municipalities</p>	
<p>Contact details: Alfatar municipality 6, Yordan Petrov Str., Alfatar 7570 Tel.: +359 86 811 610 Fax: +359 8511 21 28 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina_alfatar@abv.bg">obshtina_alfatar@abv.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The project is funded by the CBC Romania-Bulgaria programme 2007-2013</p>	

### *RAZGRAD DISTRICT*

There are several sights that represent an attraction to the tourists and support the development of tourism in Razgrad district. The best known among them are:

Clock Tower in the town of Razgrad - a symbol of the town, located in its very center, built in the 18th century and reconstructed in its present shape in 1864. The Tower differs from other similar towers in Bulgaria by its arch-shaped cornices and a dome roof, thus resembling church architecture;

Maiden's Fountain (Razgrad) - represents a sculpture of a maiden made by cast iron on a stone pedestal. The maiden wears antic clothes and holds a water vessel on her shoulder;

Temple "St. Nikolay Wondermaker" (Razgrad) – the church is located in the old Varosha quarter. It was built in 1860; it is one of the most imposing Christian temples built in Northeast Bulgaria at that time. The church bell and the roof were built in 1903.

"Ibrahim Pasha" Mosque (14th century) located in the center of Razgrad;

Hunting preserve "Voden" located on an area of 14 469 ha. Since 1964, it has been a favourite place for hunters nationwide and abroad. Different game is hunted there – red deer, fallow deer, wild boar, moufflon, roe, etc. As an exception, the lovers of wild nature can see in its natural environment the giant among European mammals – the aurochs. Each year hundreds of hunting tourists from Germany, Austria, France, Spain, USA, Turkey, etc., visit the preserve.

Ethnographic complex in the village of Pobit Kamak (18 km from Razgrad). One of the village's sights is the Ethnographic complex, situated on area of 0,4 ha, being established stage-by-stage and has acquired its present appearance in the 70s of 20th century. Three restored houses from the Bulgarian Revival Age with the typical arrangement of a mountain home are among the pearls of the complex. There are displays in each house that represent old crafts: cart-wright and iron-smithery, coppery, brandy distilling, as well as the traditional practice of home crafts. The complex includes a restored windmill as well.

Archeological complex "Sboryanovo" - the Thracian Kings' Tomb near the village of Sveshtari (IV-III century BC) is one of the most important discoveries of modern archeology. Its original architecture, sculpture and picturesque decoration make it one of the most significant creations of the Hellenistic funeral architecture. It is included in the list of world cultural heritage of UNESCO. The tomb is located near Sveshtari, 10 km northwest from the town of Isperih and 45 km from Razgrad.

The main cultural events in the district are:

- International Crafts Festival;
- Yoghurt Fair;
- International Caricature Exhibition;
- International Competition for Young Pianists "Dimitar Nenov";
- National Children's Dance Festival "Children of Bulgaria Dance";
- National Poetry Contest "Stanka Nikolitsa Spaso-Elenina"
- International Pleinair in Painting;
- Traditional Autumn Fair with cultural holidays.

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Razgrad district:

Project 1-2.

<p>Title and address of the project: Development of a tourist product based on the cultural heritage in Razgrad district, Razgrad and Isperih municipalities</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Based on the archaeological reserve “Abritus” (Razgrad) and the historical-architectural reserve “Sboryanovo” (Isperih), a tourism product based on the cultural and historical heritage has been established, permanent tourist routes to attract tourists from the major Black Sea resorts, the nearby ancient capitals and the road along the Danube have been formed and information and marketing structure. Investors are sought to build high-class accommodation and leisure facilities in the vicinity of the reserves.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Razgrad and Isperih municipalities</p>	
<p>Contact details: Razgrad municipality 37A, Beli Lom Blvd., Razgrad 7200 <a href="mailto:obshtina@razgrad.bg">obshtina@razgrad.bg</a> Tel +359 84 660 091 fax +359 84 660 090</p>	
<p>Other information: The development of the tourist product was partly financed under the EU-Phare programme.</p>	
<p>Title and address of the project: Development of a zone for tourism, sports and recreation “Pchelina” Razgrad, Razgrad municipality</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The area of “Pchelina” (a wooded plane of 1,200 ha with semi-mountainous terrain and two lakes) is located 10 km away from Razgrad and is widely used by the local population and tourists for recreation and leisure. The municipality is looking for an investor to develop the internal tourist infrastructure of the area</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Razgrad municipality and local tourist businesses</p>	
<p>Contact details: Razgrad municipality <a href="mailto:obshtina@razgrad.bg">obshtina@razgrad.bg</a> 37A, Beli Lom Blvd., Razgrad 7200 Tel +359 84 660 091 fax +359 84 660 090</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Razgrad district:

Project 3.

<p>Title and address of the project: Development and promotion of a tourist product on the basis of the cultural-historical heritage of Razgrad district, Razgrad and Ispirih municipalities</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: Under a donor-funded project implemented in 2004-2005, improvement has been made of several cultural heritage sites (the archaeological reserve "Abritus", the historical-architectural reserve "Sboryanovo" and the "Ibrahim Pasha" mosque). A center for tourist information has been established. Additional investment is required for the finalization of the reconstruction works in other emblematic buildings and in the towns of Razgrad and Ispirih, and for the construction of tourist infrastructure able to accommodate higher class of tourists.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Razgrad and Ispirih municipalities</p>	
<p>Contact details: Razgrad municipality 37A, Beli Lom Blvd., Razgrad 7200 Tel +359 84 660 091, fax +359 84 660 090 E-mail: <a href="mailto:obshtina@razgrad.bg">obshtina@razgrad.bg</a></p>	
<p>Other information: The overall amount of investment so far has been around EUR 350,000.</p>	

The introduction of the major tourism projects in Razgrad district:

Project 4.

<p>Title and address of the project: Rehabilitation of the “Omol” Park in Kubrat</p>	<p>Photo about the area or connected to the topic</p>
<p>Brief description: The project foresees reconstruction of the “Omol” Park in Kubrat: establishment of green and water areas, construction of a fountain, a wooden bridge, seating places around the trees, children's area, installation of benches, infrastructure etc.</p>	
<p>Potential stakeholders: Kubrat municipality</p>	
<p>Contact details: Kubrat municipality E-mail: <a href="mailto:kubrat@kubrat.bg">kubrat@kubrat.bg</a> 1, Knyaz Boris Str. , Kubrat 7300 Tel.: +359 848 72 020 Fax: +359 848 73 205 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kubrat@kubrat.bg">kubrat@kubrat.bg</a></p>	
<p><u>Other information:</u> Part of the funding for the project (EUR 546,300) is secured under the Rural Areas Development Programme, Measure 322 “Renovation of the populated areas”.</p>	