

Three Regions – One Experience

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria Cross-border Tourism Initiative

(ROSEB Initiative)

Mehedinti – Dolj – Olt – Bor – Zaječar – Vratsa – Montana - Vidin

Kladovo, 8th November 2016.

Contents

WHY ROSEB INITIATIVE?	3
ROSEB INITIATIVE TERRITORY	5
ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA MAP	6
WHAT IS ROSEB INITIATIVE?	7
STRATEGIC POLICY CONTEXT.....	8
A. THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY	8
B. ROLE OF THE CROSS BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION STRATEGY	8
C. THE EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)	9
D. THE ROMANIAN EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	9
E. THE BULGARIAN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	10
F. THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ACQUIS – NPAA (2014-2018) OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	10
G. EUROREGION “DANUBE 21”	10
H. SOUTH EAST EUROPE REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING	12
I. THE DANUBE COMPETENCE CENTER – DCC.....	12
BRIEF OVERVIEW OF TOURISM IN ROSEB INITIATIVE area	14
1. TOURISM IN EASTERN SERBIA	14
2. TOURISM IN NORTHWEST BULGARIA	15
3. TOURISM IN SOUTHWEST ROMANIA.....	16
TOURISM AS A PART OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMS.	17
A. INTERREG IPA CBC ROMANIA - SERBIA PROGRAMME 2014 - 2020.....	17
B. INTERREG IPA CBC BULGARIA - SERBIA PROGRAMME 2014 - 2020	18
C. INTERREG V-A ROMANIA 2014 - 2020.....	19
D. EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)	20
E. CONCLUSION	21
ANNEX A: DESCRIPTION OF TOURISM IN ROSEB AREA.....	23
A. ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA IN EASTERN SERBIA	24
B. ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA IN NORTHWEST BULGARIA.....	35
C. ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA IN SOUTHEAST ROMANIA	46

WHY ROSEB INITIATIVE?

The relationship between national borders and tourism development is complex, for borders manifest themselves in tourism and influence it in many ways. Border institutions are built up and maintained by state governance in order to control and regulate movement and transport between states. A physical border can form a barrier to tourism flows, or it can be crossed almost unnoticed. Border permeability, the barrier effects caused by the border such as regulations for the movement of people and goods, will directly influence tourism flows and the development and distribution of tourism infrastructures in a border region. Border permeability, political situations and socio-cultural cohesion also affect to the potential emergence of cross-border partnership and development (Timothy 1999, 2001).

Globalization, and especially the making of a "Europe of regions" has whittled away many restrictions that international borders have previously placed on mobility. The European Union's internal borders have been opened up both physically and symbolically, and cross-border regions have become places for communication and interaction.

The understanding and implementation of state borders as barriers – in terms of both mobility and development – has left border regions in a rather peripheral and marginal position. Similarly, tourism development in border regions has been state-centric, characterized by hierarchically organized centralized state institutions, including the regional and local administrative districts.

Bordering regions in Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria need some joint, cross-border approach since:

- *There is a common administrative border between them;*
- *Tourism is common development priority for all three border regions;*
- *Tourism and as well natural and cultural setting doesn't consider state or any other borders;*
- *Lack of regional integration in the tourism sector and a baseline for improvement of the competitiveness of tourism in ROSEB Initiative area;*
- *Natural and cultural potentials of the area are a significant comparative advantage and an important development asset stretching across the border;*
- *We have to change border discourse – from barriers to resources.*

Various Territorial Analysis indicates that tourism is a growing sector but the growth is not associated anyhow with the trilateral CBC region as a tourism destination. On the one hand, the area have own problems and challenges in developing tourism that certainly affect negatively the development of overall tourism in the ROSEB Initiative area. On the other hand, there is a tourism potential that is currently not utilized. Such potential is significantly correlated with the urgent needs to overcome challenges that this trilateral CBC region is facing. Uniting the forces from three sides, the challenges would be better approached and problems solved in comprehensive manner.

To achieve sustainability, tourism actors have to recognize both external and internal accelerators for tourism in a desired area, possibly manifesting in tourism planning where has to be shown awareness of the possibly negatively circumstances affecting natural and cultural heritage. In the context of border regions, natural and cultural heritage in neighborhood countries has to be respected at highest level.

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria Cross-border Tourism Initiative – ROSEB Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the "ROSEB Initiative") was initiated in late 2015th.

Idea for ROSEB Initiative was created under the direct impact from recently ended calls for proposals under INTEREG Cross-border Cooperation Programs between Romania and Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria; Serbia and Bulgaria. Tourism is the common priority in all those three INTEREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programs. During the process of projects identification and preparation, it's become clear that for the numbers of projects dealing with tourism, participation of two countries only wasn't sufficient. Some of the project ideas, like: development of new tourist products, joint marketing and promotion initiatives; connections with existing European initiatives; and many more, simply required participation of the third country as well.

First round of discussion was leaded by one responsible organization from each of the participating bordering regions:

- RARIS – Regional Development Agency Eastern Serbia, Serbia
- Vidin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bulgaria
- ARoTT - Romanian Association for Technology Transfer and Innovation, Romania

Each of responsible organisations provide first round of partnership consultation process in its own region during the beginning of 2016th. The consultations used multiple instruments and methodologies: bilateral meetings, collection of ideas from the potential beneficiaries, presenting ROSEB Initiative of conferences, meetings and similar events, etc.

The ROSEB Initiative was formally agreed during International Tourist Fair on March 18th 2016 in Craiova, when the three organizations agreed on the content of ROSEB Initiative.

During second and third quarter of 2016th responsible organisations provided second round of wide partnership consultation process. Second round of the consultations included all stakeholders from national, regional and local level.

As a result of such consultation process ROSEB Initiative was redefined in line with the inputs gain from the stakeholders.

Note: Analytical part of the ROSEB Initiative was supported by Project "Local economic development in Eastern Serbia"

Joint program between Switzerland and Germany implemented by GIZ



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



ROSEB INITIATIVE TERRITORY

ROSEB Initiative covers three bordering regions from Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria:

- East Serbia
- North West Bulgaria
- South West Romania

Joint cross-border region have 2.191.000 inhabitants in total.

The area considered as the eastern Serbia is consisted of territories of Bor and Zaječar districts which includes municipalities: Majdanpek, Kladovo, Negotin, Bor, Zaječar, Sokobanja, Boljevac and Knjaževac. Region has 242.000 inhabitants.

Northwest Bulgaria region is consisted of:

- Districts Vratsa, with municipalities Vratsa, Borovan, Byala Slatina, Kozlodui, Krivodol, Mezdra, Miziya, Oryahovo, Roman and Hayredin.
- District Montana with municipalities Montana, Berkovitsa, Boychinovtsi, Brusartsi, Valchedram, Varshets, Georgi Damyanovo, Lom, Medkovets, Chiprovtsi and Yakimovo.
- District Vidin with municipalities Vidin, Belogradchik, Boynitsa, Bregovo, Gramada, Dimovo, Kula, Makresh, Novo selo, Ruzhitsi and Chuprene.

Region has 435.000 inhabitants.

The area considered as the South West Romania consist of the counties Mehedinți, Dolj and Olt (south of Oltenia Region).

Region has 1.514.000 inhabitants: 306.000 in Mehedinți county, 720.000 in Dolj county and 488.000 in Olt county.

The ROSEB area is characterised by some additional features, which can be summarised as:

- Coverage of a large area with a high diversity of regions and often conflicting interests;
- Full Integration into a Macro Region framework, the Danube Macro Region, which generates substantial challenges and opportunities of coordination and synergies.

ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA MAP



WHAT IS ROSEB INITIATIVE?

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria Cross-border Tourism Initiative – ROSEB Initiative was launched in 2016th.

ROSEB Initiative is the common trilateral initiative aiming to enhance smart, inclusive and sustainable socio – economic development through improving tourism and sustainable use of the natural and cultural heritage of the cross-border area.

ROSEB Initiative Specific Objectives are:

- To create a Platform for cooperation in tourism by setting-up cross-border network of tourist stakeholders;
- To facilitate better utilisation of joint tourism potentials by setting-up mechanisms for structured participatory processes of needs assessment, priority setting, action planning and project implementation.

To this regard, ROSEB Initiative is:

- Area-specific (versus countries)
- Integrated (across sectors)
- Inclusive (communities)
- Participatory (bottom-up)
- Flexible (responsive to changes).

STRATEGIC POLICY CONTEXT

Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria Cross-border Tourism Initiative – ROSEB Initiative is designed in the framework of the European Strategy for a smart inclusive and sustainable growth. Below are summarized the main policy frameworks at European, national and regional level.

A. THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

Europe 2020 strategy puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy and
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

It sets focus on five overarching headline targets that have to be reached by 2020. These targets require a mixture of national and EU action, utilising the full range of policies and instruments available. At Member State level, full ownership is essential from Heads of States and governments, including regional and local levels. The civil society, including social partners and other stakeholders, also have an important role to play, both in the development of the programmes and in monitoring follow-up on the ground. The same principle applies for the seven underpinning flagship initiatives.

B. ROLE OF THE CROSS BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION STRATEGY

The European Territorial Agenda describes the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) and CBC Programmes, as "... a key factor in global competition... facilitating better utilisation of development potentials and the protection of natural environment".

A typology of results of ETC programmes, which reveals some crucial aspects of the ETC approach, is the following:

- Integration related results, i.e. the establishment and implementation of joint territorial governance mechanisms for common assets;
- Investment related results, i.e. delivering socio-economic benefits similar to mainstream programmes either by direct investments or by preparing such investments and
- Performance related results, i.e. inducing improvements of organisational and individual performance.

While these three categories provide a starting point, the "*Elements for a Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020*" suggests in Annex II a number of other characteristics of cross-border cooperation:

- Support the joint management and promotion of the shared major geographic features;

- Achieving a critical mass for success, especially in the field of innovation and ICT;
- Achieving economies of scale for more efficient investments in services and infrastructure;
- Providing support for the coherent planning of transport infrastructure (including TEN-T) and the development of environmentally friendly and interoperable transport modes in larger geographical areas.

C. THE EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

The Programme contributes to and interacts with, the Macro Regional Strategy that the EU has devised for the countries and regions that share common needs and objectives in the Danube Region.

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) provides an overall framework for parts of Central and South East Europe area aiming at fostering integration and integrative development. The Danube Region covers 14 countries (Germany, Austria, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Thus, the Danube Region encompasses the entire Programme area.

The Strategy includes four pillars:

- (1) Connecting the Danube Region,
- (2) Protecting the environment in the Danube Region,
- (3) Create innovation, competitiveness, building prosperity in the Danube Region and
- (4) Strengthening the Danube Region.

It is accompanied by a "rolling" Action Plan breaking down eleven Priority Areas into actions and project examples. The proposed list of the strategic actions were taken into account in the Programme strategy.

D. THE ROMANIAN EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Romanian Partnership Agreement highlights the central role of the CBC programmes in which Romania participates, for the contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Partnership Agreement emphasizes the importance of promoting the EUSDR, as macroeconomic strategies offer a new, more substantial and consistent cooperation platform that can be financed not only from dedicated funds.

The planned interventions related to the EUSDR include five different areas, namely transport (e.g.: development of bridges and port infrastructure), network of settlements (e.g.: connecting Bucharest and the Danube river), environment (e.g.: protection of the Danube Delta), society (e.g.: improvement of social infrastructure) and economy (e.g.: exploiting the agricultural, energy and tourism potential of the Danube area).

According to the Partnership Agreement, CBC programmes should also emphasize the importance of promoting employment, improving tourism and promoting cultural heritage while enhancing the connection between the communities of the border areas.

E. THE BULGARIAN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The last draft of the Bulgarian Partnership Agreement submitted to the EC in April 2014, highlights the central role of the CBC programmes participated by Bulgaria, for the contribution to the EU development strategy.

The Partnership Agreement emphasizes the importance of promoting the EUSDR, since the macro-regional strategies offer a new, more substantial and consistent cooperation platform. The CBC programmes should also emphasize the importance of promoting employment, improving tourism and promoting cultural heritage, while enhancing the connection between the communities of the border areas. Improvement of the environmental system is also to be promoted.

F. THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ACQUIS – NPAA (2014-2018) OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

According to the National plan, the Republic of Serbia is highly motivated to develop relations with immediate neighbours and countries in the region of South-East Europe, thus affirming one of the priorities of its foreign policy – improvement of regional cooperation. In the strategy of Serbia, regional cooperation, especially through regional fora and initiatives, although not replacing the process of integration to the EU, represents a central contribution to strengthening of bilateral relations with the neighbours and the states from the South - East Europe region. The Republic of Serbia is actively contributing specially to the EUDRS, thus assigning a special role to the CBC Programmes with Bulgaria and Romania, for the contribution to the wider strategy, and the creation of an integrated framework for the achievement of the Strategy objectives.

G. EUROREGION “DANUBE 21”

CROSSBORDER COOPERATION ASSOCIATION EUROREGION "DANUBE 21" was established in 2002 as association of:

1. ASSOCIATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DANUBE – CALAFAT ZONE, (founded by municipalities Calafat, Poiana Mare, Desa, Cetate, Ciupercenii Noi)

2. ASSOCIATION FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-WEST BULGARIA, (founded by municipalities: Ruzhintsi, Vidin, Makresh, Belogradchik, Lom, Kula, Dimovo, Novo selo)
3. ASSOCIATION FOR BORDER CO-OPERATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – "TIMOK 21" (founded by municipalities: Zajecar, Sokobanja, Kladovo, Boljevac, Majdanpek, Boljevac, Bor)

Danube Euroregion 21 was formed and formally registered as an Association with headquarters in Bulgaria in 2002.

Euroregion made a Strategic Action Plan that defined the directions of work of the Association in early 2003. At that time Euroregion planned to become a member of the Assembly of European Regions, but the requirements for membership has not been formally submitted. It is supposed that the Euroregion Danube 21 never became operational.

Overview of Danube Euroregion 21 key meetings:

- Vidin, September 24, 2002 - was organized at the initiative of the Bulgarian side, at the level of Foreign Ministers. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen cross-border cooperation Romania - Bulgaria - Serbia within the Association "Danube 21". It was stressed the need to boost cooperation and a special board composed of representatives of local authorities in Vidin Calafat and Zajecar and one representative from the three foreign ministries was created.
- Zajecar, May 8, 2003, was organized at the initiative of the Serbian side to discuss draft Action plan for trilateral cross-border cooperation between the Republic Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro and Romania.
- Calafat, October 23, 2004 - was organized at the initiative of the Romanian side, at the level of Foreign Ministers. The purpose of the meeting was to give political impetus and identify new ways of cooperation in the trilateral format. At the end of the meeting was signed a joint declaration which encourages the development of cross-border cooperation.

There are several reasons why the Euroregion Danube 21 failed:

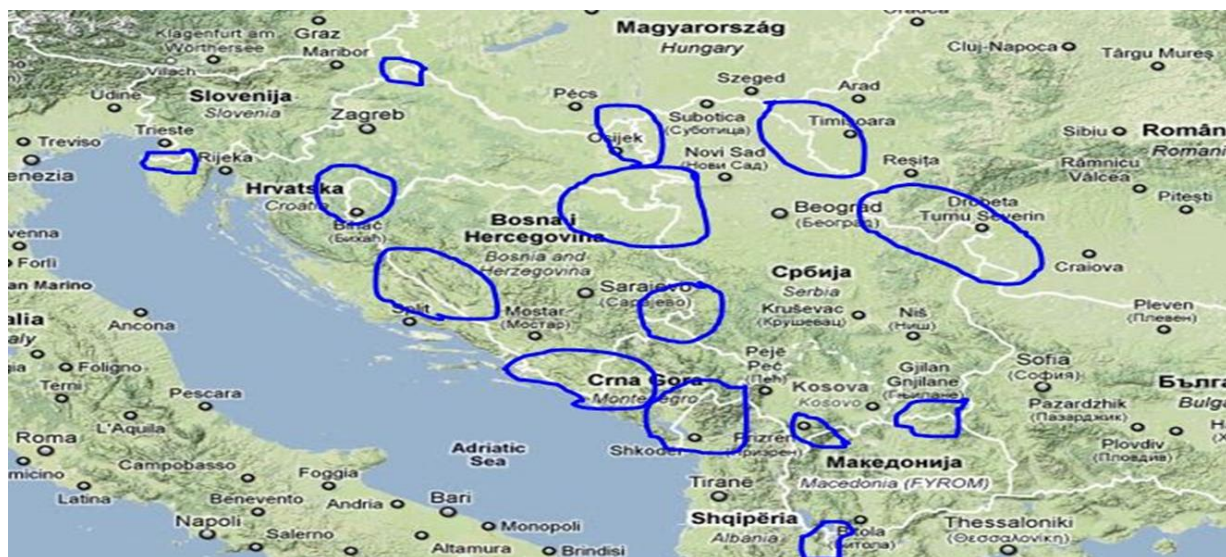
- Goals of Euroregion were too wide set;
- Planned activities of the Euroregion are by far exceeded the capacity of its founders;
- Euroregion never established administrative - technical structure that would take care on day to day activities of the Euroregion;
- There was no division of tasks and responsibilities for agreed action;
- The activities are started and ended on a rare joint meetings or conferences;
- Only declaratory decisions were made and that there was no one to implement them;
- Activities of the Euroregion depended on few leading municipalities (those initiated its formation);
- Each local elections in any country significantly blocked potential activity;
- Each local elections are coming back activities to the beginning, because there were always new people who are supposed to be acquainted with activities.

Lessons learned from the failure of Euroregion Danube 21 are important for further cooperation activities of the three border regions.

From the ROSEB Initiative point of view it is evidently that ROSEB Initiative rests on the previously clearly expressed willingness of the three border regions to cooperate with each other.

H. SOUTH EAST EUROPE REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING

ROSEB Territory was identified by SWG (South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group) as one of 14 regions in Western Balkans with highest potential for Area based development:



- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Drina –Sava | 6. Prespa Lake | 11. Istra |
| 2. Pčinja | 7. Skadar Lake | 12. Plitvice (Una-Sana) |
| 3. Dinara | 8. Lower Danube | 13. Piva-Drina |
| 4. Neretva | 9. North Banat | 14. Upper Danube |
| 5. Šar Planina | 10. Mura River | |

I. THE DANUBE COMPETENCE CENTER – DCC

The Danube Competence Center (DCC), based in Belgrade, is an international association of tourism actors for a sustainable and competitive destination Danube. DCC is a regional cooperation and marketing platform of tourism stakeholders developing the middle and lower Danube region with aims to become a partner of the EU, the Danube countries and other relevant institutions. DCC represents a part of the Danube`s touristic and sustainable regional development network (of the whole Danube region), develops and implements relevant regional tourism products and projects on the middle and lower Danube with a special international and cross-border focus.

DCC contributes to the development of a sustainable tourism sector through initiating and implementing relevant projects, building capacities of the tourism stakeholders and defining and promoting high-quality standards of tourism services and products. At the moment, DCC

has 78 members – 3 National Tourism Organisations, 5 Destination Management Organisations, 15 Local Tourism Organisations, 27 NGOs and 28 members from tourism industry.

The Association is founded to achieve the following goals:

- to contribute to the integration of interests, projects and activities in the field of tourism of the countries of the Middle and Lower Danube
- to participate in the development of long-term transnational cooperation in the field of tourism in the Middle and Lower Danube

With a regional and cross-border focus on Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine, the main task of the organisation is to build and support networks of tourism stakeholders, to enhance transnational cooperation and to create and promote unique tourism brand for the Middle and Lower Danube region.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF TOURISM IN ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA

An overview of tourism in ROSEB Initiative area clearly presents great potentials for joint tourism development.

These potentials are mainly reflected in Danube River and its surroundings, mountain ranges of the Carpathians and the Balkans and as well its corresponding natural and cultural features. Main on-going tourism activities and existing tourism locations are already recognized by international tourism sector and some of them are very successful. Nevertheless, there is still a lot of intervention needs among the area.

1. TOURISM IN EASTERN SERBIA

Regarding the draft Strategy for Tourism Development in Republic of Serbia for the period of 2016-2025, Eastern Serbia is well recognised tourist area. Belonging to Serbian part of ROSEB Initiative area, three priority destinations are identified within the Strategy: Lower Danube, Sokobanja and Stara planina. Republic of Serbia initiated drafting the Master plans for most important tourism destination is Serbia and as well for three destinations within the ROSEB Initiative area..

The Regional Spatial plan for Eastern Serbia includes municipalities Majdanpek, Kladovo, Bor, Negotin, Boljevac, Zaječar, Sokobanja and Knjaževac. Main topics of the Spatial Plan for Eastern Serbia are: regional spatial development, agriculture, forestry, mining, population, network of settlements, public services, economic development, tourism, traffic, water management, infrastructure – energy, telecommunications, communal infrastructure, environment and nature protection.

Regarding the topic of tourism development, Regional Spatial plan for Eastern Serbia defines that tourism should be developed:

- in the area of Danube, NP "Djerdap", Nature park "Stara Planina", spas Sokobanja and Gamzigrad, archaeological settlements Lepenski Vir and Felix Romuliana
- to create a connection between old Roman settlements at Knjaževac, Zaječar, Kladovo as well as other municipalities and traditional places in the Eastern Serbia.

The Spatial plan also gives a reference to the need of promoting and developing bicycle network at "EuroVelo 6" and between EuroVelo 6 and connecting routes.

In the section of priority activities, the Plan foresees completion and improvement of existing tourism packages, development of new tourism packages and offers. In addition, it foresees development of infrastructure on Danube e.g. ports and marinas, visitor centres...

Other important planning document for the region is the Regional Development Strategy for Timocka krajina (Eastern Serbia) which focuses on strategic priorities: Agriculture, Energy from renewables, Tourism, Mining, and inter-sectional priorities: Accessibility and transport, Support to the entrepreneurship, Human resources and Environment.

Regional Development Strategy identified six development directions in this Strategic development priority:

- Cultural tourism,
- Health (spa) tourism,
- Mountain tourism
- Nautical tourism,
- Rural tourism,
- Specialized forms of tourism

The current state of tourist infrastructure within this document could be described as unsatisfactory. Insufficient investments and lack of modernization caused the unattractiveness of tourist facilities (including town cores) including accommodation capacities. In fact, their average occupancy level measured by occupancy of beds on the annual level is approximately 25% of full occupancy of the all existing capacities. In addition, the quality of products themselves and associated services is not in majority of cases on desirable level and they are not commercialized enough in the domestic and foreign markets as well.

2. TOURISM IN NORTHWEST BULGARIA

According to the Strategy for sustainable tourism development in Bulgaria 2014-2030 the Bulgarian part of ROSEB Initiative is covered by two main touristic regions: Danube region and Stara planina region.

The strategy proposes for each region basic and extended specialization of activities. The main specialization is a combination of two types of tourism, which in combination define the uniqueness of the regions. Extended specialization includes besides the basic types of tourism and up to 4 complementary types of tourism.

For the Danube region the main specialization includes Cultural and cruise tourism and the extended one includes:

1. Cultural and historical tourism
2. River cruise tourism
3. Adventure and Ecotourism
4. City entertainment and shopping tourism
5. Wine and culinary tourism
6. Religious and pilgrimage tourism

For Region Stara Planina the main specialization includes Mountain and ecotourism and the extended one includes:

1. Mountain hiking and recreation
2. Adventure and Ecotourism
3. Cultural and historical, and artistic festival
4. Rural Tourism
5. Religious and pilgrimage tourism
6. Mountain Ski Tourism

There is an underlined discrepancy between the various tourist potentials and opportunities and practically undeveloped tourism that is focused on individual cultural and natural sites. The established base Tourism North Western Region covers only 3% of the total number of beds in accommodation facilities in the country and implements minimum income from tourism - 2.1%, including foreigners - 0.5 percent.

Many potential tourist attractions are not designed in a way to exploit their potential and associated adjoining tourist infrastructure is incomplete, outdated, worn or missing.

Northwest Bulgaria need investment in staff training to service the tourist development of the region, to support the development of regional products and market information, inventory and assessment of tourism resources, tools and services, regional marketing, regional studies for possible market segment and expectations of tourists, development of regional strategies for tourism development, development of travel packages and etc.

One of the most important factors in strengthening the overall competitiveness and integration of the territory is the territorial cooperation with Romania and Serbia. Cooperation strategies adopted in both cross-border regions are responding to identified needs, obstacles and weaknesses in them and is expected to be a tool for socio-economic development of the regions, increase of competitiveness and accelerate territorial cohesion.

3. TOURISM IN SOUTHWEST ROAMANIA

Authentic, natural and cultural are words that describe tourism in South west of Romanian.

On the 3 counties (Dolj, Olt and Mehedinti) is observ the opportunity and possibility to realize a tourism development based mainly on forms of cultural tourism and business tourism.

On Dolj, Olt and Mehedinti counties can be observed more types of tourism: Cultural-historic, ecumenic and monahal, traditions, gastronomy, extreme sports, ecotourism, fishing and hunting.

The opportunity to develop business tourism is closely linked to many investment opportunities associated with the process of economic development which constitutes a permanent target of the three counties. They hold a major industrial and agricultural potential as well as various spaces that can accommodate congresses, conferences, business meetings, etc.

Opportunity to develop cultural tourism is tied to specific resources area the 3 counties including heritage buildings with unique value, archaeological sites, historical monuments and art, festivals, celebrations, (over 100 remarkable events of which 50 festivals with great development potential of development into major national and international events).

These forms of tourism can develop in all three major counties with particular emphasis on Craiova and Dolj County. A mix of tourism products that take into account the resources outstanding of Craiova for cultural phenomena including tourism events and business tourism on the one hand and natural resources and cultural-historical exceptional Mehedinti on the other hand, outlines a product tourist complex particularly attractive for the whole area MDO (Mehedinti. Dolj, Olt).

Forms of tourism associated with cultural tourism and business favoured by existing resources in all three counties are: transit tourism, mountain tourism with its versions caving tourism and mountain camping tourism, hunting and fishing, including water sports, tourism weekend, scientific tourism, rest and recreation, oenological tourism, rural tourism.

TOURISM AS A PART OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMS.

ROSEB area is covered by four mayor EU funded CBC and Transnational Programs:

- a) INTERREG IPA CBC Romania – Serbia Programme 2014 – 2020
- b) INTERREG IPA CBC Bulgaria – Serbia Programme 2014 – 2020
- c) INTERREG V-A Romania – Bulgaria 2014 – 2020
- d) EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

A. INTERREG IPA CBC ROMANIA - SERBIA PROGRAMME 2014 - 2020

This CBC Romania – Serbia programme is directing towards establishment of cooperative action towards maximizing synergy and avoiding negative impact of competition, especially in tourism promotion.

Here, tourism state is presented as follows:

- Relevant potential for various types of tourism on both sides of the border, based on natural and historical resources, and on business and cultural activities that attract tourism demand;
- Ecotourism in the protected areas, cultural tourism attracted by historical heritage, business tourism generated by growing international integration of industrial clusters and business poles, present the highest potential;
- Resources are sparse on the territory, producing a potential for integrated tourism networks, more than for spot tourism attractions. All tourism attractors present a potential for integration in cross border networks;
- Accommodation infrastructure is underexploited, signaling the need for soft investments in coordinated actions for increasing attractiveness and national and international demand;
- International connections are adequate for tourism travels to the area, but the quality of local transport infrastructure and services is poor, constraining the development of coordinated offers and cross border initiatives;

In some other areas, especially the promotion of tourism along the Danube River, the development of transport services, multimodal hubs the promotion of innovation and research clusters, a cooperative action should be established, in order to maximize synergy and avoid negative impact of competition.

The Programme drafted SWOT analysis for priority sectors, and regarding tourism is as follows:

Sector	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Treats
Tourism	<p>Major natural resources for tourism development: national and natural parks, thermal springs, forests and areas of outstanding natural beauty</p> <p>Striking cultural, ethnic and natural diversity, generating attractiveness for business and tourism</p> <p>Low population density and low pressure in naturally attractive and remote areas</p>	<p>Dispersion of tourism attractors in small poles in a large territory, limiting the capacity to attract international demand</p> <p>Insufficient exploitation of existing tourism infrastructure, leading to low productivity and non-sustainability of private investments</p>	<p>Growth of new models of tourism attracted by local resources. (Eco tourism, rural tourism, business tourism, etc.).</p> <p>International networks promoting integrated offers (e.g. Green ways along Danube)</p>	<p>Increasing competition by National and European touristic destinations</p>

The Thematic Priority “Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage” is highly relevant since the natural and cultural potential of the area is a significant comparative advantage of the area and an important development asset stretching across the border. CBC projects will help achieve critical mass and demonstrate immediate effects.

B. INTERREG IPA CBC BULGARIA - SERBIA PROGRAMME 2014 - 2020

This CBC region is characterized with diverse landscape (hills and mountains, but also wide plains), the rich forests (over 30% share of the total regional territory), the exploitable thermal springs, the outlet to the Danube river, and favour continental-temperate climate, which is a prerequisite for development of agriculture, forestry and woodworking, as well as various forms of tourism throughout the year. The programme area encompasses large number of places recognized as tourism centres for cultural, spa, mountain, adventure and eco-tourism, where the Danube’s potential as tourism resources represents a common development asset to the entire programme area. The favourable natural and environmental characteristics of the programme area combined with the rich historical and cultural heritage are unique regional assets and one of the key factors for the sustainable development of the border area, and the improvement of the its attractiveness as a tourist destination.

Challenges and opportunities of the tourism in the area:

- Promoting the development of niche tourism activities (e.g. eco-, ethno- gourmet tourism) thus valorising the favourable conditions for diversified tourism in the border area;
- Improving access to sites of touristic interest thus stimulating the utilization of natural and cultural heritage;
- Exploiting the cultural heritage as a potential generator of new products and employment possibilities;
- Improving the image of the border area as touristic designation through creating common cross-border touristic brand;
- Promoting traditional productions, leading to cross-border area specialization (branding, trademarks, and certification) thus utilizing proximity to markets;
- Promoting joint territorial management by the regional authorities;
- Balancing the conserving and developing aspects of natural resources in creating sustainable tourist attractions used to improve the quality of visiting environment and also to contribute to the quality of living environment.

The main conclusion of the situation analysis shows that the border region between Bulgaria and Serbia possesses certain economic potential. Tourism (eco-tourism in particular) is a good perspective for the future.

Tourism was identified as a main opportunity to balance regional disparities and job creation. Additionally, the Programme area tourism development could substantially benefit the existing European brand that the Danube already is.

The possibilities for the border region to offer products that are naturally connected to Pan-European products would increase the attractiveness of the area – e.g. cycling routes (Eurovelo 6/the Danube Bike Path and Eurovelo 13/the Iron Curtain Trail), cultural routes (the Roman Emperors Route), hiking routes, etc.

The areas of developing tourism, tourism infrastructure and improving tourism services, historical heritage and intercultural dialogue are typically inter-related topics. They benefit particularly from the integrated approach such is the development of joint cross-border destination(s), meaning common products, synchronized policy for developing the elements of the tourism product, joint management and marketing, etc. Tourist destinations are usually formed on the base of common resources, regional identity, products, management, etc., therefore it would be reasonable to expect (and support) the establishment of more than one destination (e.g. among the Danube, in the Balkan area, etc.)

C. INTERREG V-A ROMANIA 2014 - 2020

Tourism, which is one of the strong assets of the region in terms of employment and turnover in services, is a seasonal and fragile market unequally split between the Black Sea coast well known for its resorts for mass summer tourism – Constanta (RO), Dobrich (BG) – and the unexploited rest of the territory.

Sustainable tourism seems to be the sector that best combines, given the local conditions, the economic rationale and the protection logic in order to yield sustainable benefits for the local communities.

The linking of tourism development and environmental protection was already a common political and civil society objective included in the 2007-2013 programme. The Cross Border region has created a common territorial brand and Romania and Bulgaria National Authorities are in charge of the EUSDR (European Union Strategy for the Danube Region) Priority Area 03: "To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts".

Nevertheless tourism is underdeveloped in the area and foremost unevenly distributed between the Black Sea and the whole rest of the region.

The Danube-centred sustainable tourism is still emerging and evolves in a totally different market (quantitatively and qualitatively) than the Black Sea seasonal mass tourism, e.g. in 2012 there were 80,000 bed places in Constanta and 6 000 in VelikoTarnovo which is the highest figure for the rest of the zone, except Dobrich on the Black Sea as well.

Tourism potential can increase with the development of nautical tourism on the lower Danube along with the creation of cross-border thematic trails and greenways.

Programme's Specific Objective 2.1 To improve the sustainable use of natural heritage and resources and cultural heritage states that Romania-Bulgaria cross border area is characterized by a rich natural and cultural heritage, which is subject to a variety of pressures and usage conflicts (e.g. from industry, intensive agriculture, climate change, transport as well as mismanaged tourism flows). Given the socio- economic difficulties of the cross-border area, the pressures seem set to continue unless new ways of sustainable yet viable economic uses of the heritage are identified, implemented and promoted. Sustainable tourism seems to be the sector that best combines, given the local conditions, the economic rationale and the protection logic in order to yield sustainable benefits for the local communities. This seems to be the best way to tackle the problems affecting a rich natural and cultural heritage that is less known both at national and international level.

The main result envisaged by the Member States can thus be summarized as the emergence of a model for the sustainable use (for heritage-friendly economic development) of the natural and cultural heritage of the cross-border area, thus also improving the tourism in the area

D. EU STRATEGY FOR DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

The Danube River Basin is characterized by diverse development perspectives, especially in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). Tourism and culture are two important pillars of this strategy and can contribute significantly to economic growth in the region. The attractiveness of the Danube region as a tourist destination is given by cultural heritages as well as attractive landscapes. One of the most important criteria for the development of tourism is be sustainability.

Priority Area 3 "To Promote Culture, Tourism and People to People Contacts" defined targets are:

Target 1. Develop a Danube Brand for the entire Danube Region based on already existing work

Target 2. Support the implementation of a harmonized monitoring system, dedicated to tourism, able to provide complete and comparable statistical data in all the 14 states part of the EUSDR

Target 3. Develop new and support existing Cultural Routes relevant in the Danube Region

Target 4. Develop green tourist products along the Danube Region

Target 5. To create a 'Blue Book' on Danube cultural identity

Target 6. Ensure the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage and natural values by developing relevant clusters, and networks of museums, interpretation and visitors centres within the Danube Region

Target 7. Promoting exchange and networking in the field of contemporary arts in the Danube Region.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on presented analysis of three EU Cross – Border Programmes and one EU Transnational Programme it is clear that ROSEB Initiative fit very well in analysed EU Programs and can bring significant added value to them.

Regarding to ROSEB Initiative area, following conclusions could be made:

1. Tourism development is common priority of all four programmes

With this fact tourism initiatives are supported in all programme territories, regardless the country or region. Tourism is recognized as strong assets of ROSEB Initiative area in terms of employment and turnover in services. As well, planning and managing tourism with trilateral cross-border destination approach brings added value to the programmes itself.

2. There is shown great interest in supporting development of sustainable forms of tourism rather than mass tourism development initiatives

All programme documents are following global trend of tourism development where sustainability in tourism is precondition for development. To this regard, suggested types of tourism activities have low or minimum impact on natural or cultural heritage, which was not the case in tourism development in past years. ROSEB Initiative supports sustainable forms of tourism development and thus finds its competitive position in ROSEB Initiative area.

3. Danube River and its assets as most important tourism development resource

Tourism and economy potentials of the Danube River are well recognised on European level. Danube Transnational Programme constitution is a great signal of importance of the river potentials. ROSEB Initiative area lies on of the Danube River banks having many extraordinary landscapes followed by important cultural landmarks.

4. Utilization of natural and cultural resources, such as protected areas and cultural monuments, is a driving force in development of tourism offer

Protected areas are considered as valuable potential for undertaking tourism activities. Its valuable attractions become more and more attractive for the tourists. And these activities should be carefully developed in order not to harm any of it. With cultural heritage in vicinity, comprehensive tourism potential is present. ROSEB Initiative intends to utilise these potentials in sustainable way for the benefit of the tourism stakeholders in three countries.

5. Emphasized preferences for development of tourism products such as tourist routes (cycling, hiking, cultural) and niche tourism activities (ecotourism, ethno tourism)

Supporting tourism product development is considered as necessary step towards sustainable utilization of tourism resources. Tourism products with low or minimum impact on natural and cultural heritage are considered as most suitable for the area, which is also recognized by ROSEB Initiative.

6. Great support to cross-border tourism actors in empowering networks

Substantial factor of sustainable tourism development is cooperation of tourism stakeholders. With support to strong relationships among institutions, businesses, public authorities, civil initiatives and others, tourism development benefits in various segments. ROSEB Initiative creates cooperation platform in tourism among three countries and supports setting-up cross-border network of tourism stakeholders.

ANNEX A: DESCRIPTION OF TOURISM IN ROSEB AREA

A. ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA IN EASTERN SERBIA

The area considered as the eastern Serbia is consisted of territories of municipalities: Majdanpek, Kladovo, Negotin, Bor, Zaječar, Sokobanja, Boljevac and Knjaževac.

ROSEB area is consisted of two Administrative Districts (Bor and Zaječar).



Figure 1: Eastern Serbia Region

The focus region is situated in the eastern portion of Serbia. On the North it borders Romania. On the East it borders Bulgaria. Focus area covers an area between the river of Danube and two international corridors: Corridor X (Serbia) and Corridor IV (Bulgaria).

Five of eight municipalities are border municipalities and they are Knjaževac, Zaječar and Negotin bordering the Republic of Bulgaria and Negotin, Kladovo, Majdanpek bordering the Republic of Romania. In this part of the Country the border line between Serbia and Romania goes along the Danube River. The total length of the border with EU is more than 300 km.

There are 263 settlements with 242.000 residents. Geographically, it includes bigger part of the Timok basin, part of lower Transdanubia and its hill-mountainous background zone, spring and upper part of the river Pek and upper and middle part of the river Moravica (Municipality of Sokobanja). In the South the Region of Timocka krajina is situated between Administrative Districts of Nis and Pirot and between Administrative Districts of Branicevo and Pomoravlje in the West. In the West, it borders on Romania and in the East on Bulgaria. There are the following geo-morphological units- mountainous and hilly terrains surrounding the Region territory in the South-East, West and South (high-mountain massive of Stara planina and neighbouring middle-high mountains of Kucaj, Deli Jovan, Rtanj, Tupiznica, Ozren and etc.) river valleys of the rivers Danube, Beli Timok (White Timok), Crni Timok (Black Timok) and Veliki Timok (Great Timok) where sheer rocks alternate basins; and alluvial plane and terraced land around the Danube river where it enters the Dakija basin between Kladovo and the Timok river outflow. Territory of focus region is recognized by very high altitude amplitude because it extends from an altitude of 28 meters to an altitude of 2169 meters.

Statistic data: population

Some basic data about the Eastern Serbia are presented in the table:

Data	Majda-npek	Kla-dovo	Nego-tin	Bor	Zaje-čar	Bolje-vac	Sokob-anja	Knja-ževac	TOTAL
Area [km]	932	629	1,090	856	1,069	828	525	1,202	7,842
No of settlements	14	23	39	14	42	20	25	86	263
Inhabitants (2011)	19,854	21,142	38,030	49,720	60,045	13,175	16,272	31,264	242.000
Population density	21	34	35	58	56	16	31	26	

Population structure in 2011 in the focus region is presented in the following graph:

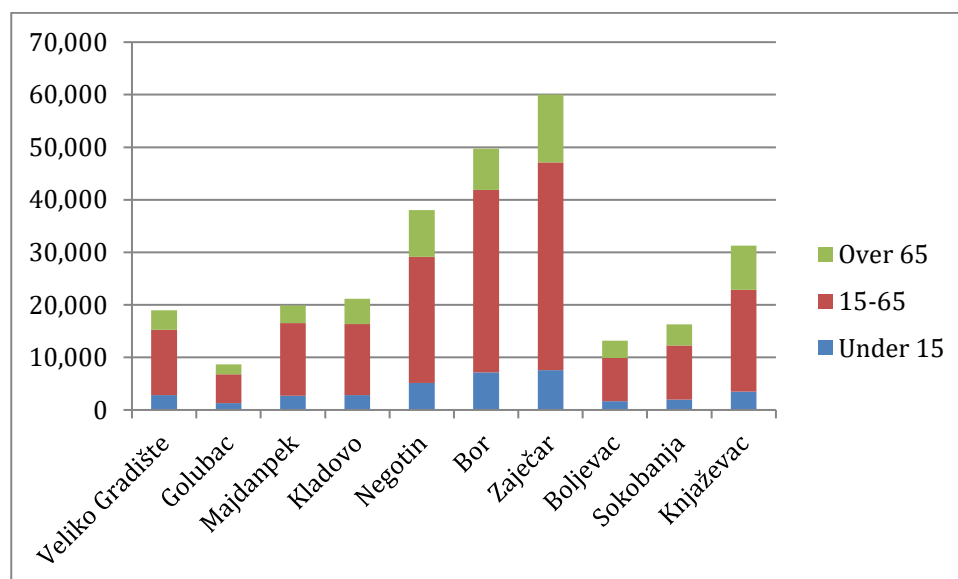


Figure 1: Population structure (source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia)

Land use and nature protection

Territory of Eastern Serbia is taken as an undeveloped region in the grip of an economic and demographic depression.

Arable land occupies more 45% of the whole territory. Forests cover more 300.000 hectares or 40 % of the total area.

From the total territory, little bit more than 50% is listed as land for agriculture, which is under the Serbian average of 63.7%. The occupied land is extremely diverse. In total, about 55% of the total agriculture land is used for crops, 40% as pastures, 2.9% for fruit growing and 2.7% for wine growing.

Protected areas

By far the most important nature protection area is the National Park Djerdap, which covers 636.08 km².

Total protected area in the region is 99 369 ha, where 2 700 ha are the first priority of protection, 19 394 in secondary priority of protection, 77 275 ha in tertiary priority. Two protected areas – Djerdap and Felix Romuliana are 69 860 ha in total.

Protected areas are listed as follows:

- National Park "Đerdap", the Municipalities of Majdanpek and Kladovo, of the area of 45,492 ha and of the protective zone area of 67,719 ha;
- Nature Park "Staroplanina", the Municipalities of Zaječar and Knjaževac, of the area of 48,588 ha;
- Nature monument "Ripaljka", the Municipality of Sokobanja, of the area of 7 ha;
- Landscape of outstanding characteristics "Lepterijsko-Sokograd", the Municipality of Sokobanja, of the area of 406 ha;
- General Nature reserve "Bukovo", the Municipality of Negotin, of the area of 10 ha;
- Nature monument "Vratna", the Municipality of Negotin, of the area of 145 ha;
- Nature monument "Zamna", the Municipality of Negotin of the area of 40 ha;
- Nature monument "Šupljastena", the Municipality of Majdanpek, of the area of 8 ha;
- Strict nature reserve "Mustafa", the Municipality of Majdanpek, of the area of 80 ha;
- Strict nature reserve "Felješana", the Municipality of Majdanpek, of the area of 15 ha;
- Nature monument "Bogovinska pećina", the Municipality of Boljevac, of the area of 14 ha;
- Strict nature reserve "Mala Jasenovaglava", the Municipality of Boljevac, of the area of 6 ha; and
- Landscape of outstanding characteristics "Romuliana-Gamzigrad", the Municipality of Zaječar, of the area of 2,686 ha and of the protective zone area of 2,414 ha.

Economy

Territory of the region is taken as an undeveloped region in the grip of an economic and demographic depression. The unemployment rate was about 24% (source: Statistical office of Serbia). However, official figure is more-less unreliable and the true value can reach double than official due to the data that counts in only registered unemployment in the Bureau for unemployment. Majority of real unemployed are registered as farmers without land.

Transportation

Overview

The focus area has no optimal connection to large transport nodes Belgrade and Novi Sad. There is no large railroad network in the region and the existing railroad network and rolling stock are in bad state of repair.

There is no explicit connection between ship services on Danube and the region. The region is not included in the cruise shipping tours.

Road network allows bus traffic, but due to the low inhabitancy and low interest for the tourism offer of the region, the bus traffic is not huge.

The international bike route EuroVelo6 runs through the region and it is well marked. There are no combinations of transports – bicycles with ships, trains, busses.

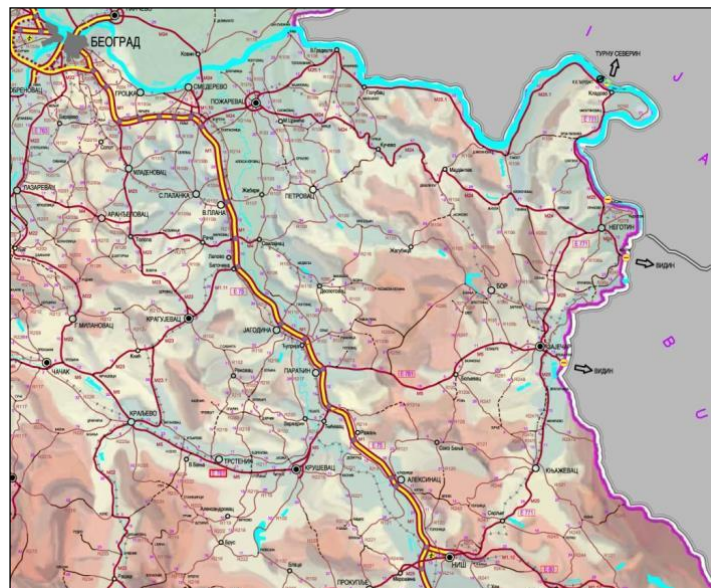


Figure 3: Road and train network

Train services

International connections

There are no international train connections from the region to the neighbouring countries. There is a wish expressed by the Public Company "Railroads of Serbia" to connect the railroad of the Eastern Serbia to Vidin, but the project has not developed from the idea still.

Regional connection

Railroad network in Eastern Serbia has been developed for the primary purpose of connecting main industrial canter to the main cities in Serbia Niš and Belgrade. So, the network is in fact a railway that goes from Niš to Knjaževac and Zaječar and from Zaječar one railway goes to Negotin and port Prahovo, other goes to Bor (copper production), Majdanpek (copper production too) and then towards Belgrade.

At the moment the state of repair of railroad network in Serbia is bad. The speed is reduced even to 30km/h on some stretches. There is no developed harmonization between other means of transport. The main operator in the region is Public Company "Railroads of Serbia", which is in charge for the construction and maintenance of railroads and rolling stock.

Trains are generally not widely used for tourism in the Eastern Serbia region.

Bus services

International connections

There is several bus services connecting Eastern Serbia with Western Europe, regularly used by passengers that originate from.

Regional connections

The region is served by a number of regional buses that are operated by several operators. Usually, there is a reduction of bus lines during summer school holidays and weekends.

Bicycle

The main bicycle route in Eastern Serbia is EuroVelo6. This route follows Danube through Serbia and runs through municipalities of Veliko Gradište, Golubac, Majdanpek, Kladovo and Negotin.

There is no combination of bicycle tourism with other means of transport – it is not possible to board bicycle on train or bus or ship, without prior notice and special packing and for extra price.

In addition, several mountain bike tracks are recently under development in the region.

Danube shipping and cruisers

There is no scheduled stops of the larger Danube cruisers in the region due to the under developed infrastructure and services. From time to time, some cruisers stop at Donji Milanovac. Tourists are visiting Lepenski Vir – settlement from neolith. Still, there are no offers for day trips in the region.

A tourist ship operated by the hotel Djerdap can be used for sight viewing Danube from the Iron Gate and Negotin on call.

Occasionally, there are some cruises from Belgrade to Đerdap operated by different tourist agencies.

Tourism

There is unique regional tourist offer. Most comprehensive regional tourism offers can be found on the web-site <http://www.traveleastserbia.org/>

Nearly all municipalities in the region have their strategic goals which are connected to the development of tourism. There are several tourism hotspots in the Eastern Serbia focus region. Some of the hotspots are on the Danube and some are in the Danube hinterland.

Every municipality in the focus region have own tourism organization, which basically is in charge of the development and promotion of tourism packages and offers in its municipality.

Every municipal tourism organization has their own web-site and offers some information regarding tourism packages:

Municipality	Web-site
Kladovo	http://tookladovo.rs
Majdanpek	http://www.toom.rs
Bor	http://www.tobor.rs/
Negotin	http://www.toon.org.rs/
Zaječar	http://www.toozajecar.co.rs/
Sokobanja	http://www.soko-banja.org/
Knjaževac	http://www.tokenjazevac.org.rs/

Several projects have tried to produce a regional tourism offer and to do regional marketing on tourism. As every project, with a completion of it, activities are somehow reduces or completely stop.

Main tourist hotspots in Eastern Serbia are:

Municipality	Hotspot	Description
Majdanpek	NP Đerdap	NP stretches along the right bank of the Danube River from the Golubac fortress to the Iron Gate dam. It spreads over 640 square kilometres. The main feature and attraction of the Đerdap National Park's natural beauty is the Đerdap gorge - the famous Iron Gate - the grandiose gateway through the southern slopes of the Carpathian mountains.
Negotin	Negotinske pivnice	<p>Growing vines in Krajina preserved the traditional way of raising the vineyard, cutting, processing and making wine. Processing and care of wine grapes are in a separate room - facilities that are known as wine cellars (pivnice). Built of stone, often ashlar with thick walls, even over 60 cm.</p> <p>Wine cellars is no longer built and in many villages there are complexes missing, the only one left are Rajačke, Rogljevske, Smedovačke, Stubicke and Bratujevačke wine cellars. The hosts make a effort to reorder some of them in a modern, functional space, keeping the specific environment. This space is offered to tourists where they can taste and buy wine.</p>
Majdanpek (Donji Milanovac)	Lepenski Vir	An important Mesolithic archaeological site. It consists of one large settlement with around ten satellite villages. The evidence suggests the first human presence in the locality around 7000 BC with the culture reaching its peak between 5300 BC and 4800 BC. Numerous piscine sculptures and peculiar architecture are testimony to a rich social and religious

		life led by the inhabitants and the high cultural level of these early Europeans.
Zaječar	Felix Romuliana	An archaeological site, spa resort and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Serbia, located south of the Danube river, near the city of Zaječar. It is the location of the ancient Roman complex of palaces and temples Felix Romuliana, built by Emperor Galerius. The main area covers 10 acres (40,000 m ²).
Knjazevac	Stara planina	Stara Planina Nature park is rich in sediments of varying ages. Well-known are the Bigar stream valley and the Midžor and Babinzub peaks. Stara Planina is a harbour to least 1190 plant varieties, 116 species of butterfly, 18 species of amphibian and reptile, 203 bird species and more than 30 mammal species. The surrounding area is rich in sites of cultural and historical interest, including numerous Orthodox churches.
Sokobanja	Sokobanja	Sokobanja is actor in organized spa tourism for the past 180 years. Main features are thermal mineral waters, ideal elevation, temperate continental climate, fresh mountain air with a lot of oxygen and beautiful, pristine nature. Most important attractions are the Hammam (Turkish bath), the Local Heritage Museum, Legacy Gallery, the health centre Banjica and thermal springs. Great network of hiking trails is also well known.

BROAD DESCRIPTION ON TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN EASTERN SERBIA

MAJDANPEK – DONJI MILANOVAC

This region was given the epithet "the cradle of ancient Europe" due to cultural values of the archaeological sites of LepenskiVir and RudnaGlava, i.e. their invaluable scientific role in learning about the earliest period of human civilization. The archaeological site LepenskiVir with an exceptionally favourable micro-location within the GospodinVir, lasted between 5,800 and 4,300 BC, within 9 successively built settlements with plan-built dwellings, tombs, shrines and artistically crafted artefacts of unique artistic expression. Architecture and culture of LepenskiVir is well known worldwide and it represents the acme of the Middle Stone Age culture.

This area has exceptional natural resources. Here are located the largest Serbian National Park – Đerdap, wonderfully beautiful Rajko's cave, Mount Miroč and the village of the same name, which is a unique natural and ethno ambience, Mount Starica (suitable for hiking), Valja Prerast, a naturally occurring stone bridge (with the span of over 150 m; the height of the upper edge of the arch is 26 m and the width of the opening at the foot, at the river bed level is 9.7 m), the VelikiZaton reservoir, an important fishing area. Finally, DonjiMilanovac, which is one of the greatest potentials for tourism development in this area, should be added to the list.

Of tourist events that are organised here, the following should be emphasized: flower and folk customs festival "Jorgovan fest" (*"Lilac Festival"*) on Mount Miroč aimed at preserving the ethnic heritage of eastern Serbia, "Đerdap u pesmi i igri" (*"Iron Gate in song and dance"*), a tourist, cultural and entertainment event lasting for two and a half months, during which sports competitions, poetry and literary readings, art exhibitions, presentations, theatre plays and concerts are being held; Children's and Pop Music Festival "TIN", "Porečikotlić" (*"The Porečkettle"*), a competition in preparing fish soup and fish stew, the Đerdap Sailing Cup, TID's Regatta and many others.

TEKIJA

Tekija is the first settlement of the municipality of Kladovo from the west direction. It is situated above the sunken Old Tekija, at the exit from the "Kazan" (*"Cauldron"*) gorge, in a very picturesque landscape. By flooding the Old Tekija, numerous ancient sites that spoke of turbulent history of this settlement (Roman fortress Transdierna) were also sunken. Today, the traditional "Zlatnabučka" (*"Golden Clonk"*) is held in Tekija – "catching catfish with a clonk".

Roman memorial plaque (*Tabula Traiana*) – located under the Đerdap trunk road, is accessible only from water today. It is a cultural monument from the period 100 BC, when in the area from Golubac to Kladovo, in the steep cliffs of the right bank of the Danube, the Roman road (the Roman *Limes*) was built, which connected a system of fortifications, bridges and docks. During the construction of HPP "Đerdap", a block of stone weighing 300 tons was cut and raised above the level of the upper elevation of the Đerdap reservoir.

KLADOVO

Tourism resources in the territory of the municipality of Kladovo are concentrated in a rather narrow zone of the Danube riparian zone and follow the flow of the Danube. The interior of the municipal area has potentials, especially in terms of landscape units and landscapes of preserved nature, but the most important anthropogenic resources are positioned along the Danube (Tabula Traiana, Diana, Fetislam, Trajan's Bridge).

The Danube and the Iron Gates – are the most important resource of the municipality of Kladovo. The Iron Gates ends in the territory of this municipality (a part of the Veliki Kazan (*the Great Cauldron*) gorge, the Mali Kazan (*the Small Cauldron*) gorge, the Oršavska ravine and the Sipska gorge). After the village of Sip, it enters into a peaceful stream through a part of the Vlach-Pontic basin, where two great hydropower plants were built.

Diana – is a Roman and early Byzantine fortress (town, necropolis, road) from the period 102-103 AD, on a dominant hill near the banks of the Danube, being one of the largest Roman-Byzantine fortifications. Building of the fortress Diana is related to the final phase of building the strategic and fortification stretch between Belgrade and Kostol, which was completed by the Emperor Trajan around 110 AD.

Fetislam– Kladovo fortress (medieval-Ottoman fortress), was rebuilt by the Ottomans, the remains of which still exist today. Today, there are two stadiums within the walls of Fetislam, one small-sided football pitch, basketball and handball pitches, an archery round, two buildings with locker rooms and a path leading to these facilities. Within the small town are the remains of the former stage, which is now completely derelict. The fortress is being used and visited minimally, mainly for recreational purposes.

NEGOTIN

For its natural beauties, cultural and historical monuments, transport links, climatic characteristics, hydrography, conditions for hunting and fishing and the existing tourist facilities, the NegotinskaKrajina (*the Negotin Frontier*) is a very attractive area.

The town centre of Negotin is consisted of the old town core, in which the Holy Trinity Church is prominent, the old and the new town centre and the town park. Of architectural monuments, the Archaeological Museum, the birth house of StevanMokranjac and the Museum HajdukVeljko are noticeable. Todorče'sKonak (guest house) is the oldest preserved house in this area and dates from the 19th century. On the territory of Negotin there is an archaeological site Vrelo-Šarkamen, from the Roman period of Tetrarchy. Three monasteries, Vratna, Bukovo and Koroglaš are the source of spirituality of the area. A special feature of the NegotinskaKrajina are *the pivnice* (wine cellars) in villages of Rajac, Rogljevo and Smedovac, where wine is prepared and kept in a specific way since the 17th century and which are open for visit and wine tasting during the tourist season.

Of the events stand out the Days of Mokranjac, which have a long tradition in Negotin and are dedicated to our most celebrated composer. The programme consists of Choir Competition, premieres, a large number of concerts, exhibitions and book promotions. The Honey and Wine Fair is held in May each year and includes presentation of wine producers and beekeepers from all over Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

THE CITY OF ZAJEČAR

The city of Zaječar is very rich in cultural and historical monuments. Certainly the greatest monument in the region is the archaeological site Felix Romuliana, from the period of Roman Emperor Gaius Galerius ValeriusMaximianus. It covers an area of 6.5 hectares (16 acres) and is surrounded by defensive walls with 20 towers. The fortification defended the imperial palace with temples, halls, peristyles and atriums, public baths, floor mosaics, marble panelling, sculptures. Felix Romuliana was inscribed into the World Heritage List of UNSECO in July 2007.

The Suvodol monastery, which is related to Prince Lazar Hrebeljanović of Serbia, is in the vicinity of Zaječar. Of the cultural and artistic facilities and events stand out the Theatre ZoranRadmilović, that bears the name of one of the greatest Serbian actors and a native of Zaječar, as well as *Gitarijada* (Guitar festival), the event that fosters rock sound and brings together renowned musicians each August.

The main natural resource at the disposal of the municipality of Zaječar is the Gamzigradska spa complex. The main feature of the Gamzigradska spa is an abundance of thermal-mineral waters – there are five sources of water whose temperature varies in the range from 32.4 °C (90.32 °F) to 42 °C (107.6 °F), in addition to which a source of drinking water with the temperature of 17 °C (62,6 °F) is also present in the spa. Thermal mineral water of the spa have largely been researched and tested, and their healing effect has been proven in the treatment of various ailments.

BOR

Of tourism potentials stand out the peaks of the CrniVrh and Stol mountains, the hunting ground Dubašnica, the complex of Zlot caves (Lazareva cave and Vernjikica), with extraordinary cave ornaments, sources of mineral and healing waters. Certain facilities of cultural and historical

values in the Brestovačka Spa, 12 km away from Bor, have a particular importance. There is a residence of Prince Miloš from the first half of the 19th century, the Knyaz's castle with a small circular pool and hot springs, the castle of Alexander Karađorđević from 1856, built in the Romanesque Renaissance style. There is a unique museum in the region, located in the town of Bor, the Museum of Mining and Metallurgy and the history of mining in the region. The Bor reservoir, which is primarily a resort for visitors from neighbouring municipalities, is also a significant potential.

BOLJEVAC

Tourism potentials of the municipality of Boljevac are extremely interesting, especially for adventurers and nature lovers. The traditional Vidovdan (St. Vitus Day) climb on the Mount Rtanj is one of the most beautiful night climbs and attracts hundreds of hikers and fitness enthusiasts from all over Serbia. The well-known Rtanj tea comes precisely from this area, and the event called "Picking of the Rtanj tea" is traditionally held here each year. Among other natural beauties stand out the Bogovinska Cave (the longest cave in Serbia, with its 5 km of surveyed corridors). There are also many attractive springs (the CrniTimok spring in KriviVir, the Lozica and Buk spring, the Lukovsko spring).

The municipality of Boljevac, as well as other municipalities of Eastern Serbia, is rich in cultural events, mainly of a local character, but without doubt the most important of them all is "Crnorečje" – Festival of Popular Culture, which brings together the growing number of visitors each year and is on the way to grow into a true national event.

KNJAŽEVAC

Tourism is slowly becoming recognized as the backbone of the future development of the municipality. Tourist centre on the Mount StaraPlanina is the greatest potential of this region. In recent years, the entire complex is being developed and already a new 4 star hotel was built and a number of very attractive ski trails with modern ski lifts were developed. Also, the plan is to quickly complete the development of utility infrastructure and access, asphalted, roads. All this has stirred great interest of tourists.

Among other things, the municipality of Knjaževac is known for its cultural and historical monuments, above all, for the ethno-archaeological park Ravna. The park features reconstructed houses from the 19th century, as well as a collection of stone monuments and exhibits from the archaeological site *Timacum Minus*, from the Roman period, which is not far from Knjaževac. The Local Heritage Museum of Knjaževac is specific in that that one can see a unique exhibition of double-knit wool socks in it.

"Molitva pod Midžorom" (*Prayer at the foot of Midžor*) and "SabornaKadibogazu" (*the Gathering on Kadibogaz*) are the most famous events that take place in the municipality of Knjaževac. These events keep the tradition and old customs through the preparation of traditional dishes, telling folk stories and poems, performing traditional folk music.

SOKOBANJA

Tourism is the main branch of economy in Sokobanja and Sokobanja has been engaged in organized spa tourism for the past 180 years. Over all these years of being engaged in tourism, Sokobanja has grown into a leading Serbian spa by the number of visits during a tourist season, where over one million overnights are achieved.

The climate is one of the most important elements of tourist valorisation of Sokobanja and the spa is rightfully called the "Air Spa" for it. Curative thermal springs of Sokobanja were known even in ancient Roman period. What makes Sokobanja attractive are thermal mineral waters, ideal elevation, temperate continental climate, fresh mountain air with a lot of oxygen and beautiful, pristine nature.

Writing about these regions, Jovan Cvijić, PhD, noted that Sokobanja and its surroundings may be called the "Serbian Switzerland". Among the attractions stand out the Hammam (Turkish bath), the Local Heritage Museum, Legacy Gallery, the health centre Banjica and thermal springs. A special tourist spectacle is a hike to Sokograd, a fort built at the time of the Roman Emperor Justinian.

B. ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA IN NORTHWEST BULGARIA

The area considered as the northwest Bulgaria, and included ROSEB Initiative, is consisted of territories of districts Vidin, Montana and Vratsa with their 32 municipalities



Figure 1: Vidin, Montana and Vratsa districts

The focus region is situated in the north-western portion of Bulgaria. On the North it borders Romania. On the West it borders Serbia.

Of 32 municipalities, nine are border municipalities with Serbia and eight with Romania. In this part of the Country the border line between Bulgaria and Romania goes along the Danube River. The total length of the border with these two countries is more than 360 km.

There are 394 settlements with a total of 435.964 residents.

Geographically, the territory includes bigger part of the Danubian Plain. The southern parts of the district comprise the territory of the most massive part of the Western Balkan Mountain Range the highest peak of which is Kom (2,016 m above sea level). In the West, it borders with Serbia and in the East with district Pleven. There are the following geo-morphological units: mountainous and hilly terrains surrounding the Region territory in the South (high-mountain massive of Stara planina), river valleys of the rivers Danube, Timok, Ogosta, Tsibritsa and Lom, and alluvial plane and terraced land around the Danube river. Territory of focus region is

recognized by very high altitude amplitude because it extends from an altitude of 38 meters to an altitude of 2016 meters.

Statistic data: population

Some basic data about the North-western region, covered by ROSEB initiative are presented in the table:

Data	Vidin	Montana	Vratsa
Area [km ²]	3032,9	3635,5	3619,7
No of settlements	141	130	123
Inhabitants (2011)	101018	148098	186848
Population density	33,3	40,7	51,6
No of employees	31300	50700	67200

Population structure in 2011 in the focus region is presented in the following graph:

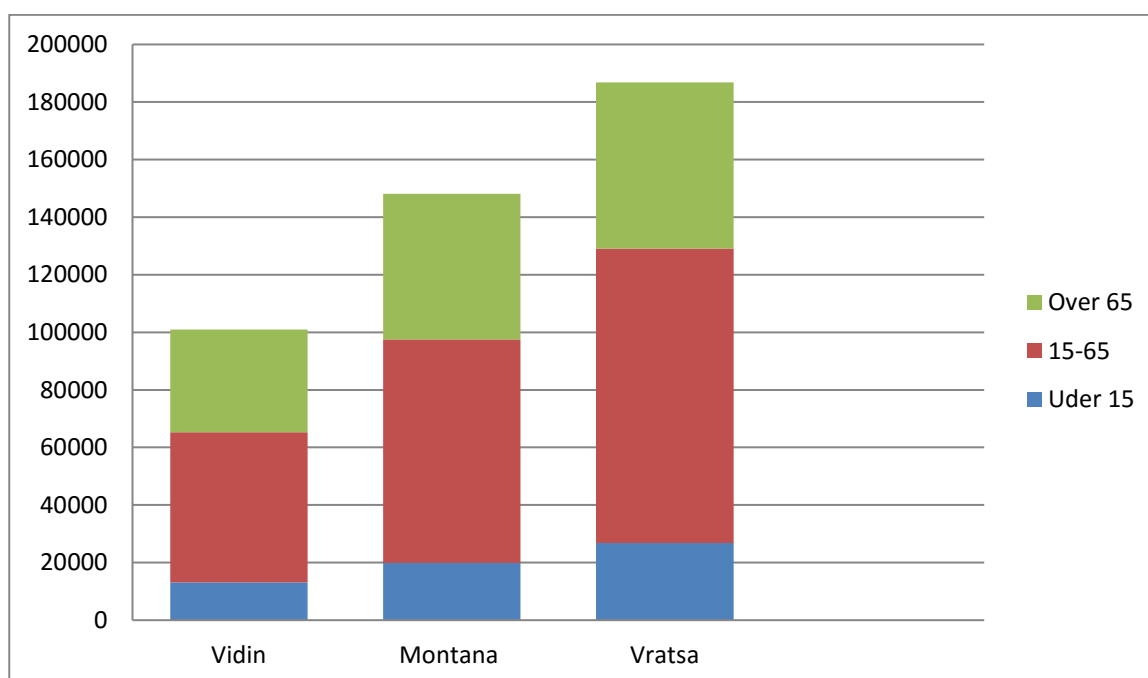


Figure 2: Population structure (source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Bulgaria)

Land use and nature protection

Territory of North-western Bulgaria is taken as less developed region in the grip of an economic and demographic depression not only in Bulgaria but in EU.

Arable land occupies more 62% of the whole territory. Forests cover more 26 % of the total area.

The occupied land is extremely diverse. In total, about 74% of the total agriculture land is used for crops, 19% as technical plants, 4.9% for fruit growing and 2.1% for wine growing.

Protected areas

"Vrachanski balkan" Nature Park

It was established in 1989 and comprises area of 30129.9 ha. The park includes most of Vratza Mountain. The terrain and soil conditions of Vratza mountain на Врачанската планина са have been favorable for the growing of various plants and animal species. On the territory of the Nature park is situated the only one of its kind in Bulgaria geo-morphological reserve "Vratsa kars", covering an area of 1409 ha.

"Chuprene" Biosphere Reserve

It was established in 1973 and comprises area of 1439.2 ha. It is situated in Chiprovska Mountain, close to village of Chuprene. It was established with the purpose of protection of century old spur forests and extremely abundant fauna (birds, amphibians, small and large mammals). Chuprene is one of our representative reserves which is highly appreciated by UNESCO experts.

"Gorna Kopria" Reserve

Declared in 1968, with area of 161 ha. It is situated in Berkovska Mountain, above town of Berkovitsa. It was established with the purpose of protection of the natural habitat of spruce and fir century forests, of age over 100 years.

"Ibisha" Reserve

Maintained reserve "Ibisha" was established in 1999 and comprises an area of 34.3 ha. It was established with the purpose of protection of the typical for the Danube islands floodplain forests and marshes as habitats of rare and endangered waterfowl.

In the region of Northwestern Bulgaria, nature landmarks enter into the groups of rock formations and caves:

- "Magura" cave – it is located southwest of town of Vidin, close to Rabisha village. It was declared a nature landmark in 1960, when was laid out and made accessible to thousands of nature lovers.
- "Venetsa" cave – declared in 1971 with an area of 1 ha in the land of village of Oreshets station, Dimovo municipality, Vidin region.
- "White water" waterfall – declared in 1976 with an area of 1 ha in the land of village Stakevtsi, Belogradchik municipality.
- "Levi and desni suhi Pech" caves– declared in 1976 with an area of 0.2 ha in the land of village of Dolni Lom, Chuprene municipality.

- Nature landmark "Marble cave" – declared in 1971 with an area of 16.3 ha in the land of town of Berkovitsa.
- Belogradchik rocks – located around town of Belogradchik. Declared nature landmark in 1949, with an area of around 200 ha.
- "Ledenika" cave – located in the Northwestern Stresherski part of Vratza mountain. Declared nature landmark in 1963. This is the most visited Bulgarian cave.

Economy

Territory of the region is taken as less developed region in European Union in the grip of an economic and demographic depression. The unemployment rate is about 18.8% in Vidin District, 17.7% in Vratsa district and 8.2% for Montana District (source: Statistical office of Republic of Bulgaria).

Transportation

Overview

Through the territory of the region is passing European transport corridor № 4, and along its northern boundary is Danube River – transport corridor № 7. Transport corridor № 4 has no good facilities and technical parameters in the regions territory. Efforts are needed to improve its status because of the new bridge over the Danube river at Vidin.

Table 2: Length of the national road network 31.12.2011

Regions, districts	Total length in km.				
	Total	High ways	I class	II class	III class
Bulgaria	19512	458	2970	4030	12054
Vidin	611	-	74	91	446
Vratsa	637	-	59	231	347
Montana	605	-	52	162	391

Train services

International connections

There are two international train connections from the region to the neighbouring countries. International train connections from Sofia to Bucuresti and from Sofia to Budapesta.

Table 3: Railroad network 31.12.2011

Regions, districts	Total length of the railways	Double railways		Electrified railways		Density of the railways network /1000 km ²
		km	%	km	%	

Bulgaria	4 072	977	24,0	2 863	70,3	36,66
Vidin	101	-	0	80	79,2	33,31
Vratsa	112	66	58,9	112	100	30,95
Montana	115	-	0	115	100	31,64

The main railway lines, serving the territory of Northwest Region are the second main railway line "Sofia-Mezdra-Gorna Oryahovitsa-Varna", which is included in the European Agreement on Main International Railway lines (AGS) and the VIIth main railway line "Vidin-Mezdra-Sofia-Kulata" included in the European Agreement on important lines of international combined transport and related objects (AGTC). The two railway lines, together with the main rail V Sofia-Kulata are forming of track of Priority Axis №22 of the Trans-European Transport Network on Bulgarian territory in the direction of trans-European transport corridor №4.

Currently, the unsatisfactory state of the railway stations, the low speeds of the trains and the poor condition of the rolling stock are the main reason for the outflow of passengers from the rail transport. In this context it is important to encourage and make the rail transport in the region more attractive to protect the environment and limit pollution caused by the road transport.

Bus services

International connections

There are no bus connection between North-western Bulgaria and Western Europe.

Regional connections

The region is served by a number of regional buses that are operated by three operators. Several times a day there is connection between Vidin and Sofia and the buses pass Montana and Vratsa districts too.

Danube shipping and cruisers

Port Vidin is one of the main scheduled stops of the larger Danube cruisers. Annually here stops more than 120 cruisers with more than 30 000 tourists.

Water transport along Transport Corridor № 7, the Danube River is maintained in the ports of Vidin, Lom and Oryahovo, but has no significant impact on the economy of the region, as it is able to offer. The port in Lom is the second largest port on the Danube in Bulgaria, as the built in infrastructure provides the shortest direct land connection Lom -Thessaloniki. Port Vidin operates three port terminals. Both ports fall within the priority areas of infrastructure on Bulgarian territory for the development of international combined transport. There must be taken serious actions to use their potential, including and through the implementation of future projects under the Danube strategy of the EU.

Tourism

Northwestern region has a remarkable cultural potential as area-gate of the country (external border of the country with Romania and Republic of Serbia). The region has registered more than 3000 pcs. real cultural values with historical and cultural testimonies of the ancient times – with cultural values since the Antiquity, the Middle Ages, the New time, of the new and the most recent history, with remarkable relations with Central and Western Europe and the countries along the Danube river during the different historical periods. Unfortunately, there is no specific tourist offer to be localized in one place and to represent the whole region as one tourist destination. Every municipality in the focus region have own tourism council, which basically is in charge for the development of promotion materials and tourism packages and offers in its municipality.

Main tourist hotspots in North-West Bulgaria are:

Municipality	Hotspot	Description
Vidin	Baba Vida fortress	One of the best preserved defense facilities in Bulgaria and a monument of culture of national significance. Its foundations were laid by the end of the 10th century A.D. on top of one of the towers of ancient Bononia. It acquired its known till the present day appearance in the 14th c. A.D., when it served as the domicile of the Vidin ruler King Ivan Sratsimir (1352-1396/97). The castle extends over an area of 9.5 dca including the defense moat.
Belogradchik	Belogradchik fortress, the rocks and Magura cave	The fortress was built among hard-of-access rock formations during the times when our territory formed part of the Roman Empire (3rd c.A.D.). It was used also during the Middle Ages and acquired its present appearance in the period 1805-1837. In recent years it is one of the most frequented and attractive sights in the country. It acts as a natural extension of one of the unique nature phenomena on the area of Belogradchik – the Belogradchik Rocks. The Belogradchik Rocks is a complex of rock formations, which stretches at 30 km length and 5 km width in the direction from the west to the east. Thanks to its prehistoric paintings, Magura cave is the most important and extended European post-Palaeolithic painted cave. In 1984 the site was placed on the Tentative List for consideration as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
Kula	Castra Martis fortress	A Roman castle built by the end of the 3rd c. A.D. and the early 4th c. A.D. It is situated in the centre of the city of Kula.
Montana	Castra ad Montanesium fortress	The remains of the fortress Castra ad Montanesium are located in south-western edge of town of Montana (North-western - Bulgaria), about 40 m above the level of the town. The archaeological excavations in the

		<p>region have revealed a gate with a big tower (a brilliant example of III - IV century fortress construction), military buildings, basilica and masonry from the Roman era, stone houses dating back to the Copper Age, Slavic homes and sanctuaries.</p> <p>The fortress was destroyed in VI - VII century in one of the Avarian or Slavic raids. A Slavic village was later built over the ruins.</p> <p>Most of the finds discovered here are kept in the Historical Museum of Montana.</p>
Varshets	Klisura monastery "St.St. Cyril and Methodiy"	<p>The fourth largest monastery in Bulgaria - Klisurski monastery "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" is located at the foot of the mountain peak "Todorini kukli" (1785 m), east of the village of Barzia (direction Varshetz), 9 km away from Berkovica, 12 km from Varshets and about 70-80 km. from the capital city of Sofia.</p> <p>The monastery dates back to the Second Bulgarian Empire (1240). During the Ottoman rule it was repeatedly destroyed, but was completely rebuilt in the XIX century by Alexander Damianov (monk Antim) from Berkovica.</p> <p>Varshets is also known as a city of health with it's mineral water. With many SPA hotels and guest houses Varshets is a famous tourist destination.</p>
Georgi Damyanovo	Lopushanski Monastery of St. John the Baptist	<p>Lopushanski monastery of St. John the Baptist is located in Chiprovtsi part of Stara Planina mountain, in the valley of river Dalgodelska Ogosta, southwest of the village of Georgi Damyanovo and north of the village of Melyane.</p> <p>The monastery is impressive for its architecture and stone sculptures. The monastery Church of St. John the Baptist has a very beautiful altar made in the best traditions of the Samokov School. The icons were painted by the brothers Nikolai and Stanislav Dospevski. Lopushanski monastery was declared a national monument.</p>
Berkovitsa	Kom Peak	<p>KOM is a peak in the western Balkan Mountains, located in western Bulgaria, not far from the Serbian border. The peak is 2,016 metres high and lies south of the town of Berkovitsa, of which it is a traditional symbol. Kom also marks the start of the Bulgarian section of the European walking route E3, also known as the Kom-Emine path along the main ridge of the Balkan Mountains, as well as the eponymous off-road race.</p>
Vratsa	Vrachanski Balkan National Park	<p>Covering the karstic mountain of Vrachanski Balkan, this nature park dominates the town and offers spectacular views over an area of 280km². There are hundreds of caves to be seen, as well as valleys, mountain streams and vast forests. The place is a real paradise for</p>

		ramblers, potholers, rock-climbers and other nature lovers.
Vratsa	Ledenika cave	Ledenika (Bulgarian: Леденика) is a cave in the Northwestern parts of the Balkan Mountains, 16 km away from the Bulgarian city of Vratsa, its entrance being at 830m above sea level. It features an abundance of galleries and impressive karst formations including stalactites and stalagmites, dating back a thousand years. The cave is about 300m long and contains ten separate halls.
Bov village	Skaklya waterfall	Skaklya waterfall is one of the highest ones in the Balkan mountain (Stara planina). It comprises of three successive cascades, the biggest of which is 85 m high. The waters of the stream that build up the waterfall are changeable. Waters come to their power in spring time when snow melts. The place is very beautiful in winter as well, when the waters of the waterfall freeze in cold days. Except for seeing the waterfall, you can also follow the secured by handrails path.

BROAD DESCRIPTION ON TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN NORTH-WEST BULGARIA

VIDIN

Vidin is situated in the Vidin Lowland by the Danube River in the Northwestern part of Bulgaria. It is about 190 km northwest from Sofia and 52 km north of Belogradchik. Vidin is a border town with Romania – to the North and Serbia to the west.

Baba Vida Fortress (Babini Vidini Kuli)- is one of the most remarkable monuments of medieval architecture of residence and architectural character in Bulgaria right on the bank of the Danube river. The Baba Vida Castle was built upon the foundations of the ancient fortress of Bononia, upon the ruins of a Thracian settlement in the early 1 century AD. The original construction plan of the castle was not changed very much over the centuries. The Castle was built on an area of 9.5 acres, surrounded by a moat, 12 metre wide and 6 metre deep. The castle has got a nearly square shape, its angles pointing at the four geographical directions, each side about 70 metre long. The final extension of the castle was accomplished by King Ivan Sratsimir.

“Kaleto” is a system of fortifying equipment on the land and the Danube River.

“Krastata Kazarma”- the building was built in 1798 in the place of the old palace of the pasture under the guidance of polish specialists for the needs of the janissary of Osman Pazvantoglu.

The mosque and the library of Pazvantoglu- which are independent complex build by the independent ruler in 1800.

Vidin offers numerous amusements for its guests depending on their wishes. The art lovers can enjoy the expositions in the art gallery. If you like theatre you can visit the dramatic theatre in the town. Kids will also be happy to enjoy the junior puppet theatre. If you are visiting Vidin during the summer you will subordinatedly have the chance to enjoy the sun and beaches on the bank of the Danube River where Baba Vida castle is situated. During the summer there is an open stage in the fortress where different musicians, ballet dancers and folklore dancers are

performing. If you prefer nosy and wild parties just visit some of the local discos. During the hot summer days we recommend the open air water centre that was recently established in the northern suburbs of the town. Trips on board of small ships along the Danube River are also organized upon demand.

BEOGRADCHIK

The town of Belogradchik is situated in the north-west part of Bulgaria, near the border of Serbia. The town is situated at a distance of about 170 km from Sofia.

The town gained global fame by being included in the vote for the new Seven Wonders of the World with its rocks. The Belogradchik Rocks are a natural phenomenon aged more than 200 million years. They cover a territory of 30 km length and about 6-7 km width. Due to its unusual forms, the rocks have various names.

The Belogradchik Fortress which had played an important role during the defense of the region for centuries is situated close to the town, in the region of the rocks.

The Astronomical Observatory of the Astronomy Institute of the Bulgarian Science Academy is situated at a distance of 100 meters from the Belogradchik Fortress. There are three telescopes in the observatory, by which the visitors can watch the night sky.

The historical museum of the town is situated in the Panova House in Belogradchik, which was constructed in 1810. The exposition presents the history, style of life and rituals in the region.

Another interesting landmark is the Art Gallery, in which more than 200 canvases are stored. Among them are works of art by Vladimir Dimitrov Maystora (1882 – 1960), Yoan Leviev (1934 – 1994), Bahit Bapishev, etc.

The only Natural Science Museum in north-west Bulgaria is situated in Belogradchik. The museum was opened in 1975 and presently stores more than 3000 exponents, which present the plant and animal diversity in the region.

The Magura Cave is situated at a distance of about 20 km from the town. Multiple rock drawings dating back to various periods have been found in the cave. A unique solar calendar with 366 days was found in the cave. The Magura is one of the largest caves in Bulgaria. Galleries with total length of 2500 meters had been found inside it. This is also one of the most visited caves in the country.

The Rabishko Lake is situated close to the Magura. This is the largest tectonic lake in Bulgaria. Its area is 3250 dca. After research, it was found that the lake is not drainable. According to a legend, a monster which wished to receive a beautiful local girl as a sacrifice was living here. The region around the lakes is suitable for camping.

MONTANA

In the district there are a number of interesting monuments of the cultural and historical heritage – monasteries, remains of ancient fortresses, architectural masterpieces, museums and ethnographic ensembles and collections. In the registry of immobile monuments of culture in Montana District are incorporated 282 sites, 29 of which are of national significance. Situated on the area of the district are archaeological findings and historical sights, which are proofs of

the ancient history of the area. These monuments are concentrated mainly in the centres of the cities-successors of ancient settlements and cultures.

The ancient town of Montanezium emerged as a military Roman camp on the remains of an old Thracian fortress during the 1st c. A.D. In the vicinity of the town has been constructed a system of 25 fortresses, which served for guarding the local ore-mining and gold-mining along the upper stretches of the River Ogosta. The foundations of two estates of Roman 19 summer houses have been discovered near Montana. In the city has been established an outdoor museum collection "Lapidarium" – stone remains of buildings and temples discovered in that area. Marble Roman statues from ancient Montana are exhibited in the National Archaeological Museum.

LOM

Lom emerges as a Roman castle (fortress with armed guards) on the River Danube, which later develops into a human settlement under the name of Almus.

Evidences of the cultural and historical heritage of the city of Lom are monuments, statues, Roman coins etc.

In the city of Lom there are about 50 well preserved buildings from the beginning of the 20th century in the Secession stile (Russe), which form a characteristic ensemble along the main street of the city of Lom with their remarkable individuality and unique mosaics.

The "Uspenie Bogorodichno" church in the city is a monument of culture, as well as the ensemble of buildings in the city centre.

In the vicinity of the village of Dobri Dol is situated the "Sveta Troytsa (the Holly Trinity)" monastery.

BERKOVITSA

The city of Berkovitsa is famous for the "Kaleto" Fortress, which is a symbol of antiquity and the Middle Ages. It is situated at three levels on the "Kaleto" Hill, near the city centre.

Monuments of culture of national significance are the churches "Rozhdestvo Bogorodichno" and "Sveti Nikolay Chudotvorets", the clock tower dating from the 18th c., the ethnographic museum and the "Ivan Vazov" house-museum from the beginning of the 19th c.

In the city there is an art gallery and a small group of original craftsmen and artisanal masters (potters, 20 woodcarvers and carpenters), who might upgrade and transfer their skills to the tourists as well. There is an idea to set up a street of the local crafts.

CHIPROVTSI

Chiprovtsi Municipality is famous for the "Sveti Ivan Rilski" Chiprovtsi Monastery, whose church is a monument of culture of national significance.

The Chiprovtsi area is renown also for the products of the Chiprovtsi carpet-weaving and goldsmith's schools, the Chiprovtsi grammar school since 1624, the high school – Seminarium (built more than three centuries ago), the remains of a Catholic church, the Chiprovtsi pre-Renaissance art and architecture – resources, which are not very well known, but possess huge potential for development of tourism in the event of adequate popularization among society and marketing.

VRATSA

In Vratsa there are plenty of natural sights – the gorge “Vratzata” which gave the name of the town, the “Ledenika” cave, the “Okolchitsa” sight, where the poet-revolutionist Hristo Botev was killed,. In the town itself, there are two medieval towers – “The Kurtpashov Tower” and “The Meshchii Tower”, dating back from the XVI Century.

The Natural Park “Vrachanski Balkan” is one of the 10 such parks in the country, declared with an order N1449 from 12.12.1989 of the Committee for the Protection of the Environment, and in March 1997 it was declared as a Protected sight of International Importance. The park’s territory has a total area of 30 130 hectares spreading within the lands of three districts: Vratsa, Montana and Sofia and five municipalities: Vratsa, Mezdra, Krivodol, Varshetz and Svoje. In the Registers of IUCN /International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/ the park is classified as category five of “Protected Landscapes” – it is given an international importance and it is recommended for tourism, relaxation and recuperation.

The cave “Ledenika” is one of the most beautiful caves in Bulgaria – it is identified as Natural Sight of international importance, and it has an overall area - the so called “Ledenishki valog” hollow out of 102 hectares. It is situated 16 km on the West of Vratsa at 820 m above the sea level. It is prominent for its rich morphological forms and formations. 23 cave species live inside the cave. There are 5 species of cave beetles and two species of bats. The cave’s huge size is impressive and during the winter it grabs the visitor with its exquisite icy decoration where the cave’s name came from.

“Zmeiova Dupka” and Vratsata are natural sights of regional importance; “Zmejova dupka” is among the most beautiful caves in Bulgaria. It starts with a 32 m deep abyss and there are rimstone lakes on the floor.

“Ponora” - situated on the North of Vratsa in a “Chiren – Lilyashki” karst basin – it is a natural sight of regional importance. The cave is 3500 m long, it has a waterfall and a lake.

“The God’s Bridge” - situated 20 km north-western of Vratsa in the land of the village of Liliache – it is a natural sight of regional importance;

MEZDRA

Approximately 5000 ha of the area of Mezdra Municipality are incorporated in the “Vrachanski Balkan” National Park. This territory is of exclusive importance for preservation of the rich biological diversity – more than 700 species of higher plants, 90 bird species, more than 500 caves, gorges, rock and cave phenomena.

Nature landmarks having tourism-related potential on the territory of Mezdra Municipality:

- “Ritlite” – rock formation of an area of 123.3 ha in the land of the village of Lyuti Brod;
- “The New Cave” – a 20 m deep hall containing interesting limestone formations;
- “Govedarnika” – rocky hill with shallow caves (niches), covering an area of 2.5 ha.

These landmarks might be incorporated in the tourism itinerary for nature phenomena of this type (for instance for ornithologists and alpinists). Their integration with the resources of Vratsa Municipality would make them even more attractive.

C. ROSEB INITIATIVE AREA IN SOUTHEAST ROMANIA

The area considered as the south west of Romania (Oltenia region) is consisted of territories of counties: Dolj, Olt, Mehedinți and Vâlcea. ROSEB area is consisted of 3 Administrative Counties Dolj, Olt and Mehedinți.

The focus region is situated in south west of Romania. On the South it borders Bulgaria and Serbia.

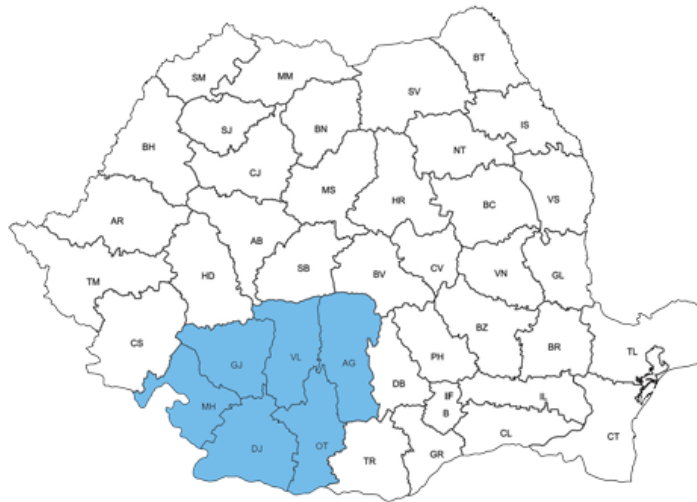


Figure 1: South West Romania Region

The ROSEB area is composed by 3 municipalities and 4 towns in Dolj county, 2 cities and 5 towns in Olt county and 2 municipalities and 3 towns in Mehedinți county.

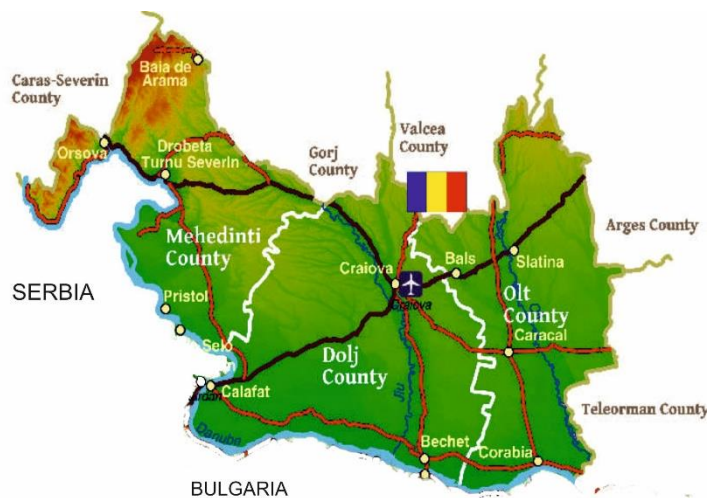


Figure 2: Romanian ROSEB area

Statistic information:

Population

From a demographic point of view, we can observe that the southwest region of Romania, more precisely three (3) of the five (5) counties of the South-West Oltenia Region Development concentrates a larger population, of 1,362,334 inhabitants

Target area	Population (inhab.)	Surface (sqm)	Demographic density (inhab./sqm)
Romania	1362334	17845	54.43
Mehedinți	265390	4933	53.79
Dolj	660544	7414	89.09
Olt	436400	5498	79.37

Road Network

The Romanian public roads form a network with a length of 6635 km, which is 7.9% of the national total and 59.4% of that of the South-West Oltenia Region Development.

In their structure, the modernised and paved roads are dominant, which have almost 2/3 of the public roads. The most majority (81.6%) of the roads are county and communal roads, which have a low degree of modernisation (approx. 20%). The national roads have a length of 1223 km and form a more dense network in the Dolj and Mehedinți counties

Distribution of public roads by categories, types of coverage and counties in 2012:

Types of roads	DJ		MH		OT		TOTAL	
	No. of km	%*	No. of km	%*	No. of km	%*	No. of km	%*
Public roads (km), of which	2435	-	1872	-	2328	-	6635	-
Modernised	844	34.7	719	38.4	611	26.2	2174	32.8
With light road coverings	695	28.5	336	17.9	804	34.5	1835	27.7
Paved	588	24.2	717	38.3	679	29.2	1984	29.9
Of soil	308	12.6	102	5.4	234	10.1	644	9.7
National roads:	473	19.4	449	24.0	301	12.9	1223	18.4

<i>of which:</i>								
Modernised	421	89.0381	84.9265	88.01067	87.2			
County and communal roads	1962	80.61423	76.02027	87.05412	81.6			
<i>of which:</i>								
Modernised	423	21.6323	22.7923	45.51669	30.8			
Density of public roads at 100 km ²	32.8	- 37.9	- 42.3	- 37.7	-			



Figure 4 Roads network on Romanian ROSEB area

As *road border-crossing points*, we mention the Iron Gates-Drobeta Turnu-Severin to Serbia and Calafat. The Calafat-Vidin Bridge (*the New Europe Bridge*), inaugurated in June 2013, is of particular importance for the development of the Pan-European transport corridor IV and of the TEN-T axis no.22.

Rail Network

The territory corresponding to the Dolj, Mehedinți and Olt counties is crossed by a *rail network* of 586 km, which is 5.3% of the national total and 58.8% of the regional one of Oltenia. *The electrified lines* have a length of 268 km, representing 45.7% of the length of the railways crossing the area (compared to the national average of 35.8% and 53% compared to that of Oltenia), the *double tracks* represent 161 km, which means 27.5% of the region's total, higher than the national average (26.8%).

Air Communication Ways

Air transports are one of the major pillars of the development of a region in general, and of tourism in particular, so that the authorities of Dolj county have launched a plan for the modernisation and development of the only airport in the area, that of Craiova. It is the only possibility of air connection with the capital, the large cities of the country or with other countries. As of 1995, foreign flights also operate here, and currently the Wizz Air Company has flights to Milano (Bergamo), London (Luton), Rome (Ciampino), and Barcelona. Recently modernised, the airport has the capacity to take a flow of 350 travellers per hour, being able to process about 500 passengers per hour (www.aeroportcraiova.ro). However, its role is still small in the development of local tourism, but there are concrete plans of modernisation – development (the first steps – technical modernisations – have already been implemented) and for attracting air operators, mainly a Low cost company that would provide the connection with the Central and Western Europe.

Protected area

The **Iron Gates Natural Park** is a protected area with elements of the flora and fauna of a significant heritage value, as well as a number of cultural components important for the communities living in this area.

The **Mehedinti Plateau Natural Geopark** is a protected area of national interest, located in the South-West of Romania, in the counties of Mehedinti and Gorj. It includes segments from the Mehedinti Mountains and from the Getic Piedmont.

The Domogled – Valea Cernei National Park is located on the territory of the Caraş-Severin, Mehedinţi and Gorj counties, in the cities of Băile Herculane, Tismana and Commune of Isverna. It includes a large part of Cerna Valley, Mehedinţi Mountains and Cerna Mountains, territories where a number of flora and fauna elements of sub-Mediterranean origin.

The protected area of Gruia-Garla Mare consists of a natural and an artificial area. The natural area is located in the Danube Valley, on the Eastern part is consists of common reed covered wetlands and a pond. The site includes a humid area (Garla Mare – Salcia), with an area of 907ha.

Cosustei Gorge is a protected area of national interest, a natural reserve located on the administrative territory of the Balta Commune, on the North-Central side of Mehedinti County. It is part of the Mehedinti Plateau Geopark, has an area of 50 ha, whereon sectors of gorges, debris, caves and limestone pavement fields are encountered, where to a number of particular flora and fauna elements are added, which are of sub-Mediterranean origin.

The karst complex of Ponoare is a geological natural reserve located on the administrative territory of Ponoare Commune and spreads on an area of approximately 100 ha.

God's Bridge – Ponoare is a natural bridge of layered limestone, located in the Ponoare locality. It is the only national functional road natural passage crossed by DJ 670 Baia de Arama – Drobeta Turnu Severin. It has been created following the collapse of a cave wall. It is the

biggest natural bridge in the country in Europe (30 m long, 13 m wide, 22 m high and 9 m thick) but the only one in the world open for road traffic.

The Lacustrine Complex Zatonul Mare and Zatonul Mic consists of two lakes of karst origin, of different sizes, located on either side of the Cave from God's Bridge - Ponoarele.

Preajba Făcăi Lacustrine Complex is a nature reserve of aquatic type, in the vicinity of Craiova city, Malu Mare Commune, which consists of a varied lacustrine complex - swamps, streams and water mirrors, sand dunes, grasslands, drowned lands – where habitats characteristic to wet areas have developed.

Bucovăț Fossil Point is a geological protected area, located near the city of Craiova, on the administrative territory of Bucovăț Commune. The area is extremely important scientifically because of its fossil material consisting of clams and other molluscs of Paleolithic age.

Peony Glade of Plenita Forest is a protected area of type botanical, located on the administrative territory of Plenita Commune and is a forest with *Quercus cerris* and Turkish oak, where Romanian peony can be found (*Paeonia peregrina* - *Mill.var.romanica*).

Dranic Fossil Point is paleontological reserve, located in Drane Commune and was discovered in 1971. This is a formation of fauna consisting of molluscs and micro-mammals, arranged on several levels. The most important fossil points in this area are Aninoasa and Groserea, both of them being located on sandy soils.

Cilieni Pond - Băilești is an aquatic natural reserve, located in the Danube Meadow, the Plain of Băilești, in the range of the city with the same name.

Black Pond Nature Reserve is a natural aquatic reserve on the administrative territory of Desa Commune, located in the South-West of Dolj County. The nature reserve protects many fauna species, especially birds. In addition to the natural elements, tourists arriving in the area can also visit a number of places of worship, archaeological sites and historical monuments - "St. Nicholas" Church, the Roman Castrum in Desa, etc.

The Broad Pond Nature Reserve is a protected area of aquatic type, located on the administrative territory of Ciupercenii Noi Commune and is superimposed to the Natura 2000 site Ciuperceni - Desa (lake, grasslands, sand dunes, drowned meadows).

The ornithological reserve of Ciuperceni - Desa is a protected area of national interest, located on the territory of Ciupercenii Noi Commune. It occupies a section of the floodable area of the Danube, which has never been dammed and has the habitat corresponding to wetlands.

The Dunes of Dăbuleni are a protected area, which is unique in Romania, located on the administrative territory of Dăbuleni town, in the South - East of Dolj County, near the Bechet port. The reserve is recognised for its meadow landscape, covered with sandy, Sahara-type soil, used for agriculture - melons and viticulture.

The Gighera - Zaval Area - is located near the Danube port of Bechet and is a very rich area for the development of a complex tourism project, given the existence of natural protected areas, such as the "Secular Forest of Zaval" (over 350 hectares). In their proximity, within the range of Gighera Commune, there are valuable mineral springs with therapeutic indications both for internal course (rheumatism, gout, neuralgia, gastrointestinal, renal diseases, biliary dyskinesia, etc.) and for external course (degenerative rheumatic diseases, arteritis, arthritis, bone and muscle diseases, postoperative sequelae, etc.).

The Forest House Nature Reserve in the Potelu Forest is a forest protected area located on the administrative territory of Ianca Commune, in the Danube Meadow, in the south-west of Olt County. It is part of the forest area of the Potelu Meadow.

The Iris Reserve - Malu Roșu is a protected flora and avifauna area located on the administrative territory of Draganesti-Olt City and the Mărunței and Fălcoiu communes, in the Danube Meadow. Within this area, there are several protected species of migratory birds.

Izbiceni Lake is a avifauna reserve on the administrative territory of Cilieni, Izbiceni and Tia Mare communes, located in the south - east part of Olt county, near the border with Teleorman County. The reserve includes a reservoir located on Olt River, on its lower course, and within the reserve there are a number of protected avifaunal species.

Strejesti Lake is an avifaunal reserve located on the territory of the counties Olt – Strejesti comune and Valcea – Voicesti commune consisting of a reservoir on Olt River. Within this reserve, several species of migratory birds and not only are protected.

Branistea Catarilor Forest is a protected forest area, located on the administrative territory of the Obarsia and Stefan cel Mare Communes from the South - West of Olt County and Romanati Plain.

Călugăreasca Forest is a forest reserve located on the administrative territory of Radomirești commune, in the central - eastern part of Olt County, north - west of the Boianului Plain and along with the peony Reserve of the Academy, it is the Natura 2000 site - Calugareasca Forest.

The "Resca Forest" Nature Reserve is in the Olt Meadow, on the terrace of the Caracal Plain, in the neighbourhood of Resca village and is a protected area of national interest. The reserve houses a large variety of flora and fauna elements specific to the area of interference of the Romanati Plain with the Boianul Plain.

Topana Forest, site of Community importance, is a natural reserve of forest type, located on the administrative territory of the Topana commune in the northern part of Olt County. Therein, species of Weeping Oak, *Quercus cerris*, Turkish oak and durmast oak are protected.

The Peony Reserve of the Academy _ is a protected area of floristic type, located on the administrative territory of Stoicănești commune in the central - eastern part of Olt county.

Seaca - Optășani Forest is a protected area of forest type, located on the administrative territory of the Spineni commune, to tulle Optășani village, wherein a number of protected forest patches are protected.

The reserve of Turkish oak arboretums is a forest reserve, located on the administrative territory of Poboru commune in the northern part of Olt county, where the species of Turkish oak with an average age of 75 years are protected and are part of the Natura 2000 site – Seaca - Optășani.

Oltețului Valley - is a natural reserve located in the Romanian Plain in the western part of Olt County, on the administrative territories of the , Dobrun, Fălcoiu, Pârșcoveni, Șopârlița and Voineasa. On the territory of the reserve, several types of habitats are protected, from the meadow one, to the beach or meadow forest ones, wherein several floristic species can be encountered.

Baloiul Island is located on the Danube, by the Gârcov village, near the marshy area called *Balta Geraiului* (Geraiul Pond). The island is part of two "Nature 2000" sites, respectively

Corabia - Turnu Magurele and the Olt - Danube confluence. It has an area of about 140 ha and the vegetation mainly consists of poplar and willow, trees that evenly cover the entire area.

Economy

The area economy is complex, based on a new, modern and varied industry, where the Ford Motor Company, Craiova Airplane Factory and "Popeci" – Heavy Machinery Factory, as well as on a developed and diversified agriculture. The culture of vines, known since ancient times and practiced especially on top of the terraces or on sandy soils, forms the famous vineyards of Segarcea - Lipovu specialised in wine grapes and table grapes.

Tourism

The most realistic *perspectives* regarding the tourism products can take into account:

- **Water sports** – the entire region provides great opportunities for developing cruises (for visiting the main cities, as well as some locations of special significance. E.g.: the Cetate Cultural Harbour, Corabia Port, etc.).
- **Trips** – visiting the archaeological sites, hydropower plants, the nature park, etc.
- **Business tourism** – urban centres
- **Rural tourism – agro-tourism** – the localities adjacent to the Iron Gates Natural Park or downstream of the Iron Gates 1, but also within the counties
- **Hunting tourism** (with investments outside the natural park, a few locations with suitable hunting infrastructure)
- **Fishing tourism** – the Danube provides excellent conditions for practicing this type of tourism in accordance with the legislation in force
- **Photo Safari** – the Iron Gates Natural Park has the ideal conditions for developing such a tourist approach, particularly if we take into account the existing great demand on the market of Western Europe, USA or Japan
- **Culinary tourism** – the existence of several typical, local specialties, as well as of the vineyards. One of the supporting elements for this form of tourism and which is very suitable for the context provided by the Danube River and related localities is the concept of **slow food**.

Main tourist hotspots in Romanian part of ROSEB area:

County/Locality	Hotspot	Description
Mehedinti	Statue of Decebalus	On the Romanian side, at the Small Kzans, between Eşelnița and Dubova, the Statue of Decabalus draws the attention, which was carved in rock between 1994 and 2004 and is the largest rock sculpture made in Europe.
Mehedinti	The Ruins of the Tri Kule Medieval Citadel	Its ruins are 4 km downstream from the locality of Svinita, on the left bank of Danube. There are three towers here, of which one is no longer visible, because at the beginning of the last century, the ices on Danube collapsed it, and what was left of it was covered by the river.

Mehedinti	The Ruins of Trajan's Bridge	The Ruins of Trajan's Bridge - Trajan's Bridge was built by the architect Apollodorus of Damascus between 103-105, near Drobeta City and is one of the reference buildings in the entire history of the Roman Empire
Mehedinti	The Iron Gates Region Museum	The Iron Gates Region Museum was inaugurated in 1945, after it had been previously named the Museum of History and Ethnography in Turnu Severin and is equipped with 16 rooms located on three levels.
Mehedinti	The Theodor Costescu Cultural Palace	The Theodor Costescu Cultural Palace , dedicated to Romanians' dream for ages – the Great Union – was built at the initiative of the members of the "The Theatre of Turnu Severin" Cooperative Society; it is built according to the plans of the famous architect Grigore Cherchez.
Mehedinti	Medieval Citadel of Severin	The Medieval Citadel of Severin was built in 1233 over the ruins of Drobeta Citadel. For three centuries, it played the role of a gate between Western Europe and Eastern Europe. It was conquered and destroyed by the Turks in 1524. The ruins that are seen today originate from two chambers, surrounded by a ditch and provided with 6 square towers.
Mehedinti	The ruins of the Roman Castrum of Drobeta	The ruins of the Roman Castrum of Drobeta – the Castrum was the first stone citadel built in Roman Dacia, and its image can also be seen on Trajan's Column in Rome. It is a small fortification that was intended for auxiliary units of the Roman army.
Mehedinti	Șimian River Island	Șimian River Island is located near Drobeta-Turnu Severin and houses the historical monuments from the Ada Kaleh Island, which disappeared in 1970, as a result of building the reservoir of the Iron Gates I Dam
Mehedinti	The Water Castle	The Water Castle was built between 1910 and 1914, when the drinking water was taken out from a few wells with an engine powered by wind. The Water Castle is the building to which the water supply of Severin is connected to
Mehedinti	Monastery of St. Ana	Monastery of St. Ana in Orșova was built on the Moșul Hill (<i>Old Man's Hill</i>) in the city, between 1936 – 1939 by the journalist Pamfil Seicaru who fought as infantry in World War I and was decorated with the Order of "Mihai Viteazul".
Mehedinti	The Roman-Catholic Cathedral	The Roman-Catholic Cathedral was built between 1972-1974 in the centre of Orșova, near the 1800 Square. It is a unique monument in Europe, creation of the architect Hans Hackelmann, being a bridge between the minorities in the city: Romanians, Germans, Czechs, Hungarians

Mehedinti	The Monastery of Mraconia	The Monastery of Mraconia is located in the Dubova Commune, Mehedinti County, at a distance of 15 km West of the Orsova city.
Mehedinti	Topolnița Monastery	Topolnița Monastery is located in the Izvoru Bârzii Commune, about 20 km away from the county seat, Drobeta Turnu Severin and is part of the Diocese of Severin and Strehaia.
Mehedinti	Vodița Monastery	Vodița Monastery was built on the territory of Vârciorova, between 1370 -1372, near the border between the Austro - Hungarian Empire and Wallachia.
Dolj	The Cetate Cultural Harbour	The Cetate Cultural Harbour arose on the ruin of the former agricultural port, around 1880, when wheat was the great wealth of the Romanian plains and was sent to Europe paddle boats from Cetate. In 1945, the port was closed and turned into border guard watch house.
Dolj	Museum of Oltenia	Museum of Oltenia in Craiova is headquartered in the central area of the city, near the Madona Duda Church. .
Dolj	The Craiova Art Museum	The Craiova Art Museum - It is headquartered in the Jean Mihail Palace , which was built between 1899 and 1907 according to the plans of the architect Paul Gottereau.
Dolj	The Art Museum of Calafat	The Art Museum of Calafat – headquartered in the Stefan Marincu Palace , a building on the list of historical monuments, which was built between 1905 - 1909 according to the plans of the French architect, Paul Gottereau.
Dolj	The "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre	The "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre was founded in Craiova in 1850 by Costache Caragiale and Costache Mihăileanu, personalities who remain in the management of the institution until 1854.
Dolj	Romanian Opera of Craiova	Romanian Opera of Craiova is an institution of great calibre in the cultural landscape of Dolj County, located in the historic monument building of the "Carol I" National College, in the downtown area of the city.
Dolj	The Philharmonic of Oltenia	The Philharmonic of Oltenia is a prestigious institution in the Romanian cultural scene, founded in 1904, under the title of "Craiova Philharmonic Society." Currently, its artistic work is supported by the Academic Symphony and

		Choir Orchestra, where a number of instrumental chamber formulas and vocal ensembles add to.
Dolj	"Colibri" Children and Youth Theatre	"Colibri" Children and Youth Theatre was founded in 1949 under the name of the "Puppet Theatre" in Craiova.
Dolj	The Nicolae Romanescu Park	The Nicolae Romanescu Park is located in Craiova City, on location of the former estate of the 19 th Century, which belonged to the boyar family Bibescu. The estate included inter alia, an important garden, decorated with pavilions, benches, greenhouses and other specific features. Over time, the garden became subject to a decay process, and in 1848, the authorities of Craiova decided to invest in this place to give the citizens of Craiova variants of leisure and spending free time.
Dolj	The Botanical Garden of Craiova	The Botanical Garden of Craiova is the fourth arrangement of this kind in the country, after those in Bucharest, Cluj and Iasi and was founded in 1952 at the initiative and under the guidance of Prof.
Dolj	The Maglavit Monastery	The Maglavit Monastery is located in the town with the same name in the south - west of Craiova. The history of the Christian faith in Maglavit was marked by a unique event. A young shepherd named Petrache Lupu, in the year of grace 1935, had meetings with God the Father Himself in a place called "At the stumps" (<i>Romanian: La Buturugi</i>).
Olt	The County Museum of History - Olt	The County Museum of History - Olt is in the centre of Slatina City and was inaugurated in 1952 as the Slatina Regional Museum. For almost 30 years, between 1920 and 1949, the collectors of Slatina initiate private collections of folk, archaeological and numismatic art.
Olt	Romanați Museum - Caracal	Romanați Museum - Caracal was founded on September 26 th , 1949 in a building on Negru Voda Street No.1 in Caracal. It was called the district museum, then city museum until April 30 th , 1990, when it returns to initial name, "The Museum of Romanați" .
Olt	The Museum of Archaeology and	The Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography of Corabia was established in 1951 and has a mixed profile: history, ethnography, natural science. The building

	Ethnography of Corabia	where it operates is a historic monument, the Cosma Constantinescu Palace, built in 1907. The museum exhibition is structured in two departments: folk art and ancient history .
Olt	The Memorial House of Nicolae Ceaușescu	The Memorial House of Nicolae Ceaușescu is located in Scornicești, the place where Nicolae Ceaușescu was born. It was built around 1890 and rearranged in 1979 by the former president.
Olt	The Memorial House of Iancu Jianu	The Memorial House of Iancu Jianu is located in Caracal City, on the street with the same name.
Olt	The Memorial House of Nicolae Titulescu	The Memorial House of Nicolae Titulescu is in the commune with the same name in the Olt county and is the place where the great Romanian politician was born.
Olt	Sucidava Citadel	Sucidava Citadel is located near Cela village and developed on the left branch of Danube. In the north direction, Sucidava had opening to the road on the Olt Valley.
Olt	The Clocociov Monastery	The Clocociov Monastery is located in the south part of Slatina, in a depression flanked by two slopes, natural position whose picturesque also contributes the wide view that opens to Olt river.
Olt	Călui Monastery	Călui Monastery is located 12 km North of Balș, in Călui village. The road to the monastery is always accompanied on the left hand side by the Olteț river.
Olt	Brâncoveni Monastery	Brâncoveni Monastery is an Orthodox monastery of nuns of the 16 th Century, located in the Brâncoveni commune, Olt County (20 km from Slatina).
Olt	Craft of Pottery – Vădastra Commune	Along with furring, it forms a cultural emblem of the Oltenia area.