



Development of Agrotouristical Sector in Romania

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ABSTRACT

The agrotouristical sector allows demand to space by engaging in recreational activities, sports and cultural entertainment, respond to the urban population growing interest towards the natural heritage and rural culture, having important implications in terms of economic and socio-political life of the Romanian village. The paper provides a brief analysis of the sector of agro-tourism in our country during 2000-2015, using the statistics presented by the National Institute of Statistics, to the eight regions level, namely: North West, Central, North East, South East, South-Muntenia, Bucharest-Ilfov, South West and West Oltenia.

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1. Introduction

Rural tourism is a form of tourism which provides intense contact of the tourist with the physical environment and human action in rural areas and provide him the opportunity to know and to participate in the daily life of the local population. Rural tourism has a strong cultural and educational vocation, as well as particularly important for the preservation of values and cultural identity of the rural communities [5].

One of the requirements of sustainable rural tourism effort lies in the preservation of the essential elements of the motherland. Under these conditions, rural tourism definition takes into account a number of factors such as [4]:

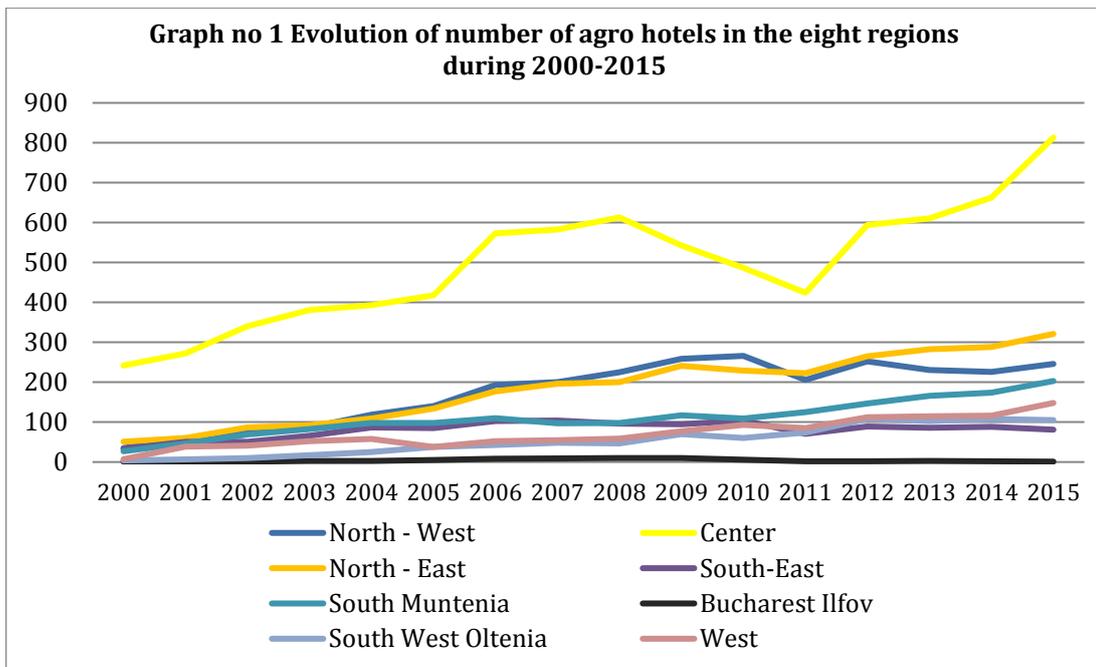
- ✓ *the psychological dimension, based on human need to enjoy rest and recreation,*
- ✓ *the social dimension, generated by contact with the rural world,*
- ✓ *the geographical dimension related to the configuration of the relief, which favors limited development activities of times travel,*
- ✓ *the urban dimension, linked to the organization, the size of the settlement, the level of facilities and infrastructure.*

Rural areas are generally characterized by low density of population, number of households (usually with great distances between them) and major agricultural or forestry areas. This diversity of resources has led to different forms of expression of the rural tourism, some of these activities being found under the title of: agrotourism, green tourism or ecotourism [3]. The agritourism refer to various forms of tourism in direct connection with agricultural activities and/or buildings having destinations, role, functions in the field of agriculture. This particular form of rural tourism is based on peasant household insurance in the context of services of accommodation, meals, recreation and other complementary [3].

After 1990, for rural tourism was elaborated Order nr 62/1994 and then the law 145/1994 that gave a number of facilities for the development of rural tourism in the mountain area, Delta Dunării and the coast of Marea Neagră [6]. By Order No. 63/1997 and the Law 187/1998 expanded facilities granted for rural tourism development and introduced the concepts of agro hostel and tourist hostel. The tourist hostels are structures with a capacity of up to 20 rooms in the homes of citizens or in independent buildings, which provide special spaces for tourists accommodation and conditions of preparing and serving meals. The agro hostels are the tourist hostels that provide accommodation are part of tourists eating fresh produce from their own production. The tourism activity within the tourist hostels and the agro hostels includes accommodation, meals, recreation, and other services provided to tourists during the stay [7].

The agro hotels are tourist structures, with a capacity of up to 8 rooms in the houses of citizens or in independent buildings, which provide special spaces for tourists accommodation and conditions for the preparation and serving of meals, as well as the opportunity to participate in household activities, or craft. Location of the agro hotels should be effected in touristic places away from sources of pollution and any other items that would endanger the health or life of tourists [9].

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Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

It is observed that the number of agro hotels increased with 1516 units, from 400 in 2000 to 1918 in 2015, with the increasing trend in seven of the regions (in Bucharest-Ilfov region being one agro hotels).

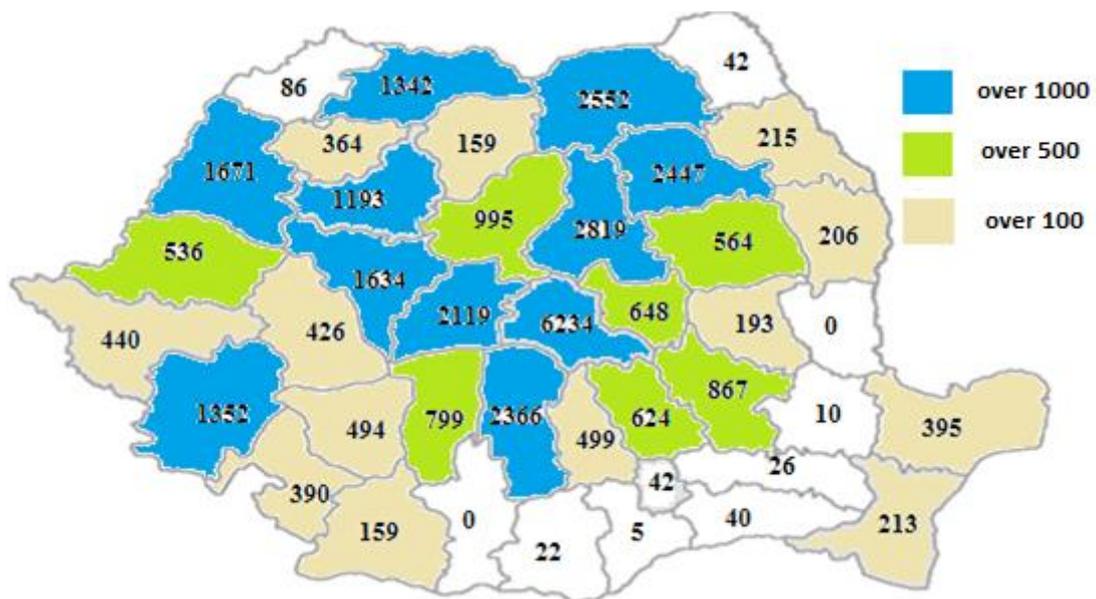
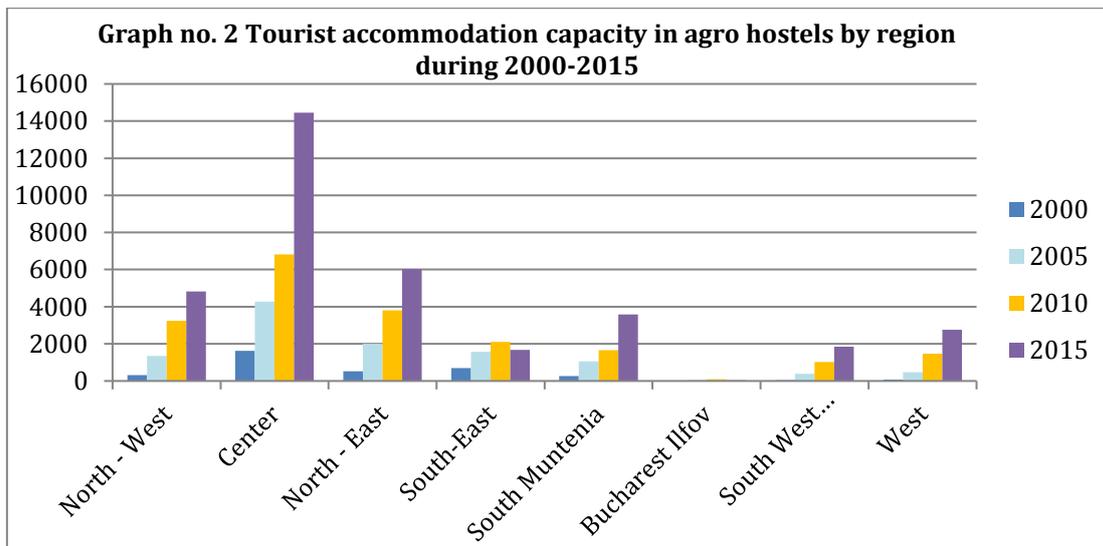


Figure 2 Distribution on counties of the number of accommodation places in agro hotels in 2015

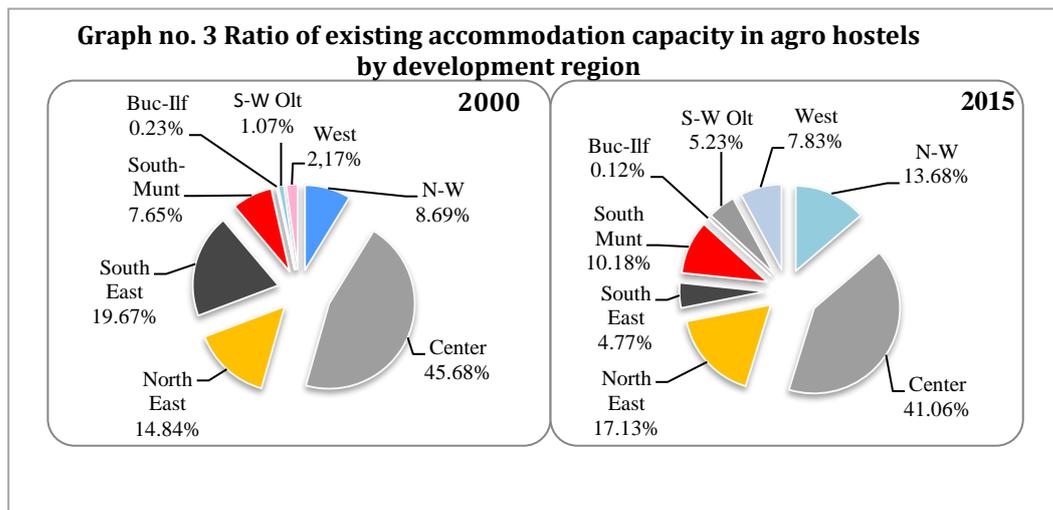
Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

În Figure 2 the counties are grouped according to the number of accommodation places in agro hotels in 2015. counties with over 2000 places are: Braşov (6.234), Harghita (2.819), Suceava (2552), Neamţ (2447), Argeş (2.366) și Sibiu (2.119). At the opposite pole lies counties: Giurgiu (5), Olt (0) și Galaţi (0).



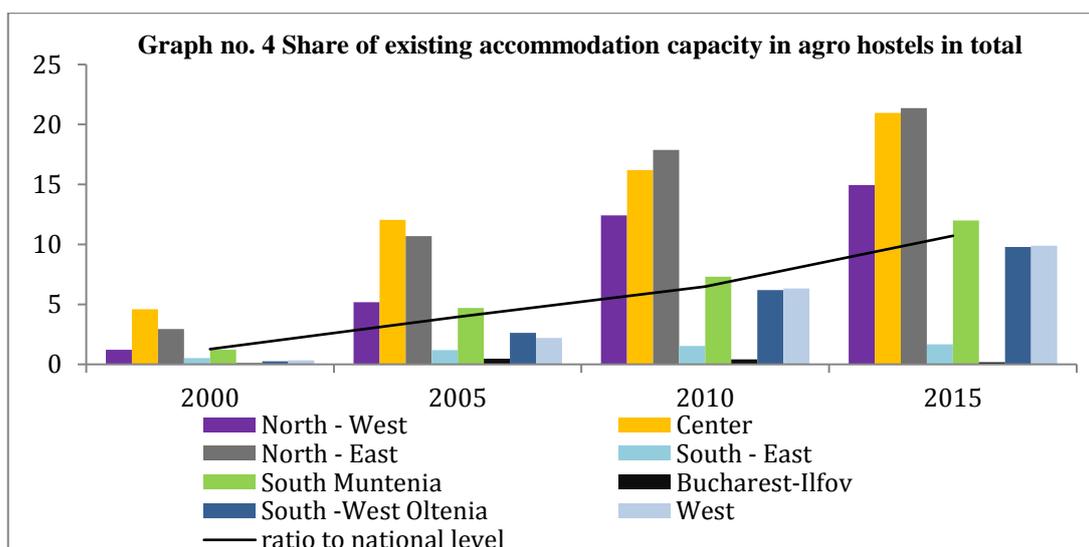
Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

The number of accommodation places in agro hotels had an increasing trend, in 2015 with 35188 accommodation places, at the national level increase with 14.980 seats compared to 2010, and with 35.644 seats compared to 2000. Comparing information for two years (graph no. 2), it is noted that in 2015 compared to 2010, it existing accommodation capacity increased to six regions level: North West (with 1.573 seats), Center (with 7.635), North East (with 2.222 seats), South Muntenia (with 1.928 seats), South West Oltenia (with 825 seats), West (with 1.281 seats).



Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

Observe (graph no. 3) that both in 2000 and in 2015, the largest share of existing accommodation capacity in agro hostels in total accommodation capacity to the development regions in these units at national level, located in the Central Region, which is 41,06% of the total capacity of accommodation in rural locations nationwide in 2015, down by 4,62% compared to 2000. Decreases also meet in the Regions: South East (by 14.90 %) and Bucharest Ilfov (by 0,11%). The largest increase in the ratio of existing accommodation capacity in agro hostels meets West Region with 5,66%, compared to 2000.

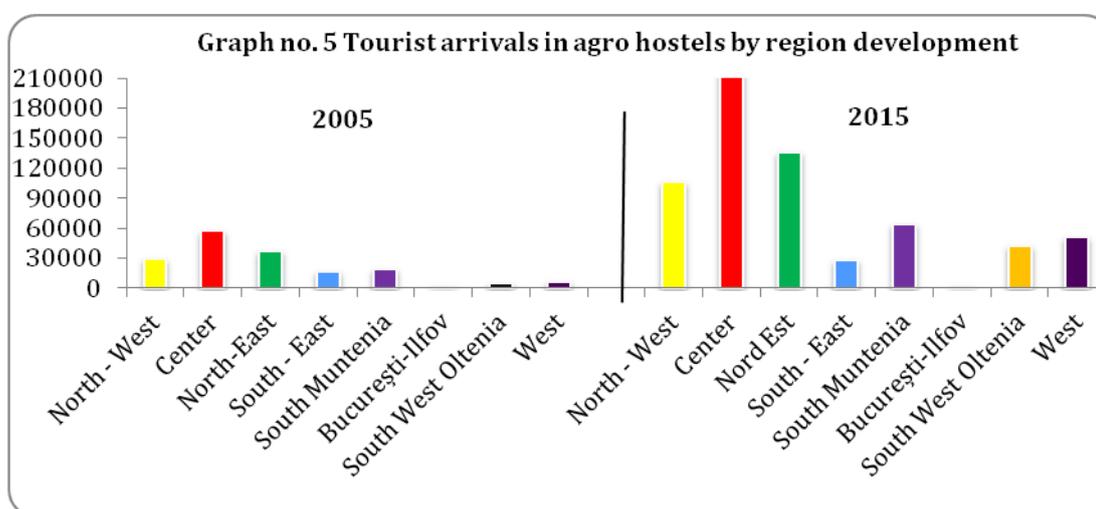


Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

Analyzing the share of existing accommodation capacity in agro hostels in total accommodation capacity existing in the tourist reception in developing regions (graph no. 4), we observe four regions recorded a higher ratio than the national percentage, which had an upward trend, from 1,27% in 2000 to 10,72% in 2015: the North East, with 18,42%, Central Region, with 16,38%, the North West, with 13,74% and South Muntenia, with 10,78%. Although the weight is below the national level, the other four regions also recorded growth in 2015 compared to 2000, respectively: South West Oltenia with 9,54%, West Region with 9.64%, South East with 1.14% and Bucharest-Ilfov region, with 0,09%.

3. Analysis of the number of tourist arrivals in agro hostels by region development during 2000-2015

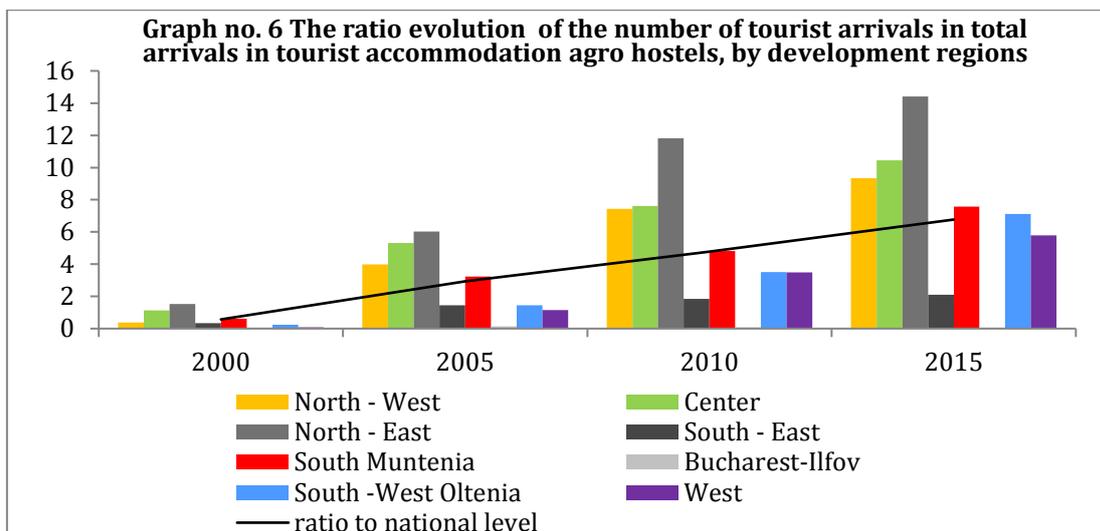
For analysis of data we are using the number of tourist arrivals in agro hostels by development regions during 2005-2015 and their share in total arrivals of tourists in agro hostels nationwide.



Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

Comparing information presented (graph no. 5) in the first and last year of the period analyzed, it can be said that in 2015, the number of tourist arrivals grew nationally by 502.592 compared to 2005, which representing an increase thus 395.36%.

In what follows (graph no. 6) is the ratio evolution of the number of tourist arrivals in total arrivals in tourist accommodation agro hostels, by development regions.



Source: data obtained from the processing of statistical information presented by the National Institute of Statistics [12]

Analyzing the above graph (graph no. 5), we notice an increase in 2015 compared to 2005 to the share of the number of tourist arrivals in total arrivals agro hostels in tourist accommodation in seven regions, respectively: North East, with 8,40%, North West, with 5.35%, Center, with 5.13%, South Muntenia with 4,34%, South West Oltenia, with 5.67 %, West with 4,63% and South East with 0.66%. Nationally level, the percentage of tourist arrivals in agro hostels increased by 3,84%.

5. Conclnsions

The agrotouristical sector has recorded an continues increase over the past 15 years, the number of agro hotels with a touristic accommodation capacity installed more than 5 rooms being of 1918, and the accommodations places provided to 35.188 în 2015, representing 10.72% a total accommodation capacity existing in the tourist reception in developing regions. The agrotourism represents a strategy for the future, which may help to reduce the mobility of the population, the creation of jobs and the promotion of socio-economic development of less favoured regions. The agrotourism allows conservation of spaces and of modes of life, profitable both for residents and for future generations.

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