

THE ROLE OF TOURIST RESOURCES IN DETERMINING A TYPOLOGY OF SUPPORT-LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE TERRITORIAL UNITS (LATUs) WITH RESORTS IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: The tourist resorts in Romania have experienced quantitative and qualitative changes, especially after 1990. After a period of maximum development specific to the 70's, when their number was over 130, in 2006, by applying a new law referring to the qualitative aspect, their number decreased considerably to 47 resorts of national interest and 49 of local interest. Our purpose, by means of this study, is to accomplish an analysis at the level of support administrative territorial units (LATUs) where there are tourist resorts, and a quantitative/qualitative interpretation of the role of natural and anthropic tourist resources in defining tourist functionality of a territorial system of this type. The accreditation of the endeavor from scientific point of view starts from the use of a specific data base existing in the Spatial Planning of the National Territory (SPNT)–section VI Tourist Zone⁴, and from the combination of a certified methodology in the specialty literature with a pattern proposed in this study. Through the weighting of values on categories of elements and through comparative analysis we have obtained a typology of LATUs which we propose as a useful instrument in elaborating strategies to plan and develop the territory under the form of functional tourist territorial systems of tourist resort type.

Key words: tourist resources, resorts, Romania, tourist system, local administrative-territorial units support (LATUs)

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INTRODUCTION

The arrangement of Romania's relief in almost equal proportions under the form of mountains, hills and plains inevitably attracts a wide variety of natural tourist resources. All these are reflected in the diversity of relief and, implicitly, in the landscape diversity as well, in the climatic-tourist potential, upon the variety of hydro-mineral and lake fund, of hydrographic network and especially of the biogeographic fund formed of extremely rich and diversified vegetation and fauna. The anthropic tourist fund made up of cultural-historic, ethnographic objectives and especially of the cultural particularities of certain areas such as Oaş, Maramureş, Bucovina, Rucăr-Bran, Apuseni Mountains, Banat, Poiana Ruscă etc, all grouped in the category of material and immaterial tourist heritage, encourage the occurrence of new centers which generate networks of resorts and tourist localities with complex functionality underlying the tourism development of a territory through "*touristification*" (Cazelais et al., 2000). These resources valorized or in latent state, depending also on the infrastructure elements, more or less adjusted to the resource value, determine a state which is reflected in the support-framework value provided by LATUs¹ and in the functionality degree of the tourist resorts they own.

The development of tourist resorts at the level of the Romanian geographic space is overlapping an ascendant trend starting with the pioneering period from the beginning of the 20th Century, followed by interwar and socialist periods until the level of the year 2006. The first period with ascendant evolution under quantitative aspect, reached maximum level in 1984, with a total of 138 resorts of local and general interest² (Munteanu et al., 1978; Teodoreanu et al., 1978). Unfortunately, after the 80's, based on numeric stagnation, a period of regress followed from the quality point of view, especially after 1990. Only in 2006, through a government' decision³, the quantitative direction was changed towards regress, a re-attestation of the existing resorts by drastically reducing their number to less than half; however, the qualitative component increased. Later on, through the efficient valorization of the existing tourist resource, in parallel with infrastructure development of a series of former resorts and of certain localities or parts from them, which did not have this status before 2006, by their re-attestation, the number of tourist resorts slightly increased, reaching the number of 84 in 2014 (Figure 1). The resorts which lost this status, either disappeared from the tourist map of Romania, or became settlements with tourist function.

ANALYSIS BACKGROUND

At the level of Romanian political space, the administrative-territorial organization is identified with 4 statistic-territorial levels NUTS 1, 2, 3 and 5. In the case of planning and development strategies of the territory at local level, the basic structure is represented by NUTS 5 level (LAU 2) associated to the administrative territorial units (LATU) of municipality, town or commune type. Each of them can include in their administrative structure one or more localities. The administrative background determined like this is corroborated with the legal one which states that a tourist resort is „the locality or part of a locality which boasts natural and anthropic resources to which a series of other criteria provided by law is added”⁴. Further on, we shall use in this study the name of support-Local Administrative Territorial Unit (LATUs).

The design of the territorial system created this way (LATUs) is analyzed through the existent relation between the values of natural and anthropic tourist resources and the

¹ Local Administrative Territorial Unit – support (LATUs)

² www.turism.gov.ro/statiuni-atestate.pdf

³ Government Decision no 867/28 June, 2006 (sursa: www.legislatie.just.ro, 2014)

⁴ Decision no 852 from August 13th, 2008 for approval of norms and criteria for tourist resorts attestation, in OM no 613 from August 20th, 2008.

contribution of each category in its outlining. The transformation of the quantitative indicators identified in the data base provided by SPNT-Section VI Tourism⁵ by weighting and comparative analysis into qualitative indicators, facilitates in parallel the re-outlining of a territorial system on categories of LATUs for tourist resorts which face up the same type of issues. Thus, by measurement, clues are provided referring the directions which must be followed in elaborating strategies to plan and develop the territory for tourist purpose. Starting from the theoretical component of tourist area (Câdea et al., 2003, 23) and shifting to the practical side of functional tourist system (Cunha, 1988; Ianoș, 2000; Ilieș et al., 2012, Szromek & Romaniuk, 2014) and sustainable development (Murphy, 1994; Sofield, 2003), we identify the pluses and minuses in outlining tourist areas generated by the network of resorts and localities with tourist function according to their systemic functionality degree. The finality of such an evolutionary logical line is based on the planning and development of component elements with major emphasis laid on the factors referring to favorable and restrictive features in tourist analysis (Muntele & Iațu, 2003; Câdea et al., 2003, 24).

The territorial design at LATUs level includes 81 such units on whose territory there are 90 resorts of national and local interest (Table 1). The LATUs with more than one resort are the urban ones: Mangalia with 6 resorts of national interest, Predeal with 3 resorts, out of which one is of national interest, Eforie with two resorts of national interest (Eforie Sud and Eforie Nord); and two rural ones: Sânmartin commune (Bihor County) with two resorts out of which one is of national interest (Băile Felix) and one is of local interest (1 Mai) and Văliug commune (Caraș-Severin County) with two resorts of local interest (Crivaia and Semenici).

Out of the 81 analyzed LATUs, 30 are in the rural area, out of which 5 have resorts of national interest: Sânmartin (Bihor County), Moneasa, Costinești, Voineasa and Sucevița, and 25 have resorts of local interest. The 51 LATUs in the urban area have 38 resorts of national interest and 20 resorts of local interest on their territory. Currently (2014), out of the 90 tourist resorts, 70% are in mountain area and the rest are in hill and plain areas and on the Black Sea seaside.

DATA BASES AND METHODOLOGY

In methodological terms, important issue is to determine optimum operating parameters in a planning of territorial system (LATUs) based on the characteristic elements of the tourism concept used in tourism planning (Williams, 1998; Gunn & Var, 2002; Ciangă & Dezsi, 2007; Ilieș, 2007; Hall, 2008; Ilelenicz & Comănescu, 2007), especially tourist resources.

The accreditation of the endeavor, from scientific point of view, starts from the use of a specific data base existent in the SPNT-section IV tourism⁵, of field documentation and from the combination of a methodology certified in the specialty literature with a pattern proposed in this study. The documentation base uses information provided by SPNT and refers to the quantitative aspects of natural and anthropic tourist resources. We mention that the data used from the SPNT can be adjusted and used as the basis for illustration and support the propose scientific approach concerning the typology of LATUs. The corroboration of these results with those obtained from field and office documentations, especially those which refer to the new attestation criteria of tourist resorts (from 2006), allowed us to re-outline, qualitatively and quantitatively, the design of the Romanian tourist system determined by LATUs and the network of resorts and localities with tourist function on their territory.

⁵ The Spatial Planning of the National Territory (SPNT) (www.mdrt.ro/studii-de-fundamentare-privind-patn-sectiunea-a-vi-a-zone-cu-resurse-turistice). Study accomplished by the Geography Institute of the Romanian Academy

The starting point is the accumulated synopsis and proportions added up at SPNT⁵ level with the value of 100, named Index of Tourist Development (I_{TD}) and it is represented by the following formula: Tourist resources (T_R) 50%/points + Specific tourist infrastructure 20% + General technical infrastructure 30%. At the level of this study, using the mentioned data base as model, our objective is an analysis focused on the value of the tourist resource, on its role in building up and defining the functionality of a territorial system of LATUs type and the outlining of an instrument pattern which can be used in the strategies of planning and development of territory for tourist purposes. In the case of the study elaborated at the level of SPNT^{3,5}, the value of tourist resources contributes with 50%/points to I_{DT} formation, in equal proportions (25%/points) for each category of resources (natural- T_{NR} and anthropic- T_{AR}). The value results from the assessment of: natural background (10p); protected area (5p); natural therapeutic factors (10p) and 25 points for anthropic resources: historic monuments of national interest, museums and public collections, popular art and tradition, entertainment and concert institutions, repeatable cultural manifestations, UNESCO monuments.

The proposed working method refers to the weight of the quantitative values of the two major categories of resources under the form of a rating which is easy to be compared, determined under qualitative aspect. It has values from 0.1 to 10 and each point has a constructive significance emphasizing the pluses and minuses of a system assessed this way. The following formula is used:

$(vT_R/25)*10$ where:

vT_R = the value of the tourist resource identified at LATUs level which can be T_{NR} (natural) or T_{AR} (anthropic);

25 points maximum limited on resource category;

10 is value of new scale (1-10).

Depending on the obtained values (on a scale from 0 to 10), we obtain a LATUs typology which reflects the relation between natural and anthropic resources materialized through the contribution to defining and outlining of the LATUs type territorial system as follows:

1.) *LATUs with identified important tourist resources ($T_{NR}+T_{AR}$) and an average rating over 8.0*: both categories of identified tourist resources are present with values over 5, they contribute considerably to the definition of the tourist function of the LATUs and, implicitly, to the increase of the tourist resort' attractiveness degree through the volume and diversity of the resource. It is the ideal type of LATUs for the existence of a tourist resort.

2.) *LATUs with high concentration of identified tourist resources, with a average rating between 6.1 and 8.0*. The tourist resources are satisfactory for the functioning of the tourist system, without the pressure of immediate increase of their volume. Both resource categories are definitely present, the minimum rating accepted for this category being 5.0 for minimum one resource category. This type includes LATUs with sufficient resources for a tourist resort, the emphasis being laid on quality and diversity. The detail analyses are obtained by the application of subtypes.

3.) *LATUs with average concentration of identified, valorized tourist resources and with important latent resources: rating between 4.1 and 6.0*. In this case, attractiveness must be increased by identifying new resources (including the valorization of the latent ones) or by functional diversification of the existing ones. Usually, both categories of resources are introduced in the tourist circuit (minimum 1 point for one category), however, there is the possibility to achieve minimum rating (4.0) out of a single type, either natural or anthropic. If the value is over 5.0, we must identify the second category of resources as well. This type includes LATUs where the limit between satisfying and unsatisfying is frail and where important difference can occur, visible at subtype level.

4. *LATUs with reduced concentration of identified tourist resources: rating under 4.0.* This type emphasizes LATUs with poorly valorized resources, with reduced variety of resources and which requires the identification of new resources in order to provide the tourist functionality of the territorial system. These are necessary to provide the passage to a superior category, more sustainable for the functionality of a tourist resort. In this case, both categories of resources can be valorized, but each of them is characterized by reduced diversity. Usually, the rating *under 1.0* is provided by one or at most two tourist resources, characterized by isolation and difficulties regarding diversity or multiplication. At subtypes level, **a** and **b** dominate due to the reduced values at the level of tourist resources category. Subtype **c** is scarcer and emphasizes a major disparity between the two resource categories (even zero for a category).

Tabel 1. Local Administrative Territorial Units-support (LATUs) with National and Local Tourist Resort from Romania, 2014

(Data sources: www.turism.gov.ro/statiuni-atestare.pdf;

www.mdrt.ro/studii-de-fundamentare-privind-patn-sectiunea-a-VI-a-zone-cu-resurse-turistice)

No.	Tourist Resort	Local Administrative-Territorial Unit Support (LATUs)	County	Tourist Natural Resources (T _{NR})		Tourist Anthropic Resources (T _{AR})		Average between (T _{NR} + T _{AR}) / 2	Differences (+/-) (T _{NR} -T _{AR})
				Values of T _{NR} in SPNT	New weighting value	Values of T _{AR} in SPNT	New weighting value		
	Sinaia - National Păltiniș - Local	BORȘA - urban; Bran -rural							
1	Călimănești-Căciulata	Călimănești	Vâlcea	25	10	19	7.6	8.8	2.4
2	Băile Herculane	Băile Herculane	Caraș-Severin	25	10	15	6.0	8	4.0
3	Poiana Brașov	Brașov	Brașov	16	6.4	24	9.6	8	-3.2
4	Păltiniș	Sibiu	Sibiu	14	5.6	25	10.0	7.8	-4.4
5	Secu	Reșița	Caraș-Severin	16	6.4	22	8.8	7.6	-2.4
6	Borșa	Borșa	Maramureș	21	8.4	16	6.4	7.4	2.0
7	Sinaia	Sinaia	Prahova	21	8.4	15	6.0	7.2	2.4
8	Mamaia	Constanța	Constanța	12	4.8	24	9.6	7.2	-4.8
9	Vatra Dornei	Vatra Dornei	Suceava	25	10	10	4.0	7	6.0
10	Geoagiu-Băi	Geoagiu	Hunedoara	18.5	7.4	16	6.4	6.9	1.0
11	Horezu	Horezu	Vâlcea	9.5	3.8	25	10.0	6.9	-6.2
12	Sucevița	Sucevița	Suceava	9.5	3.8	25	10.0	6.9	-6.2
13	Piatra Neamț	Piatra Neamț	Neamț	11	4.4	22	8.8	6.6	-4.4
14	Cap Aurora	Mangalia	Constanța	20	8	13	5.2	6.6	2.8
15	Jupiter	Mangalia	Constanța	20	8	13	5.2	6.6	2.8
16	Mangalia	Mangalia	Constanța	20	8	13	5.2	6.6	2.8
17	Neptun-Olimp	Mangalia	Constanța	20	8	13	5.2	6.6	2.8
18	Saturn	Mangalia	Constanța	20	8	13	5.2	6.6	2.8
19	Venus	Mangalia	Constanța	20	8	13	5.2	6.6	2.8
20	Moneasa	Moneasa	Arad	19	7.6	14	5.6	6.6	2.0
21	Vișeu de Sus	Vișeu de Sus	Maramureș	14.5	5.8	17	6.8	6.3	-1.0
22	Băile Olănești	Băile Olănești	Vâlcea	23	9.2	7	2.8	6	6.4
23	Bazna	Bazna	Sibiu	14	5.6	16	6.4	6	-0.8
24	Bran	Bran	Brașov	16	6.4	14	5.6	6	0.8
25	Ocna Șugatag	Ocna Șugatag	Maramureș	14	5.6	16	6.4	6	-0.8
26	Șuor-Mogoșă	Baia Sprie	Maramureș	13	5.2	16	6.4	5.8	-1.2
27	Sângeorz-Băi	Sângeorz-Băi	Bistrița-Năsăud	21	8.4	8	3.2	5.8	5.2
28	Băile Felix	Sânmartin	Bihor	21	8.4	8	3.2	5.8	5.2
29	1 Mai	Sânmartin	Bihor	21	8.4	8	3.2	5.8	5.2
30	Harghita-Băi	Miercurea Ciuc	Harghita	10	4	19	7.6	5.8	-3.6
31	Gura Humorului	Gura Humorului	Suceava	11.5	4.6	17	6.8	5.7	-2.2
32	Băltătești	Băltătești	Neamț	20	8	8	3.2	5.6	4.8
33	Covasna	Covasna	Covasna	16	6.4	12	4.8	5.6	1.6
34	Lipova	Lipova	Arad	8	3.2	20	8.0	5.6	-4.8

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35	Durău	Ceahlău	Neamț	15	6	12	4.8	5.4	1.2
36	Breaza	Breaza	Prahova	14.5	5.8	12	4.8	5.3	1.0
37	Lacu Roșu	Gheorgheni	Harghita	15	6	11	4.4	5.2	1.6
38	Techirghiol	Techirghiol	Constanța	11	4.4	15	6.0	5.2	-1.6
39	Balvanjoș	Turia	Covasna	11.5	4.6	14	5.6	5.1	-1.0
40	Câmpulung-Moldovenesc	Câmpulung-Moldovenesc	Suceava	14.5	5.8	11	4.4	5.1	1.4
41	Sovata	Sovata	Mureș	23	9.2	2	0.8	5	8.4
42	Băile Govora	Băile Govora	Vâlcea	18	7.2	7	2.8	5	4.4
43	Trei Ape	Brebu Nou	Caras-Severin	14	5.6	11	4.4	5	1.2
44	Bușteni	Bușteni	Prahova	16	6.4	9	3.6	5	2.8
45	Eforie Nord	Eforie	Constanța	17	6.8	8	3.2	5	3.6
46	Eforie Sud	Eforie	Constanța	17	6.8	8	3.2	5	3.6
47	Băile Băița	Gherla	Cluj	6	2.4	19	7.6	5	-5.2
48	Ocna Sibiului	Ocna Sibiului	Sibiu	17	6.8	8	3.2	5	3.6
49	Pucioasa	Pucioasa	Dâmbovița	22	8.8	3	1.2	5	7.6
50	Râșnov	Râșnov	Brașov	13	5.2	12	4.8	5	0.4
51	Slănic	Slănic	Prahova	18	7.2	7	2.8	5	4.4
52	Slănic Moldova	Slănic Moldova	Bacău	24	9.6	1	0.4	5	9.2
53	Târgu Neamț	Târgu-Neamț	Neamț	18	7.2	7	2.8	5	4.4
54	Vălenii de Munte	Vălenii de Munte	Prahova	8.5	3.4	16.5	6.6	5	-3.2
55	Praid	Praid	Harghita	16	6.4	8	3.2	4.8	3.2
56	Băile Tușnad	Băile Tușnad	Harghita	23.5	9.4	0	0.0	4.7	9.4
57	Tinca	Tinca	Bihor	16	6.4	7	2.8	4.6	3.6
58	Arieșeni	Arieșeni	Alba	15	6	8	3.2	4.6	2.8
59	Moieciu	Moieciu	Brașov	15	6	8	3.2	4.6	2.8
60	Cheia	Măneciu	Prahova	14.5	5.8	7	2.8	4.3	3.0
61	Albac	Albac	Alba	15	6	6	2.4	4.2	3.6
62	Borsec	Borsec	Harghita	21	8.4	0	0.0	4.2	8.4
63	Băile Turda	Turda	Cluj	10	4	11	4.4	4.2	-0.4
64	Crivaia	Văliug	Caras-Severin	19	6	6	2.4	4.2	3.6
65	Semenic	Văliug	Caras-Severin	19	6	6	2.4	4.2	3.6
66	Buziaș	Buziaș	Timiș	13	5.2	7	2.8	4	2.4
67	Săcelu	Săcelu	Gorj	13	5.2	7	2.8	4	2.4
68	Snagov	Snagov	Ilfov	14	5.6	6	2.4	4	3.2
69	Sărata Monteoru	Merei	Buzău	11.5	4.6	6	2.4	3.5	2.2
70	Soveja	Soveja	Vrancea	10.5	4.2	7	2.8	3.5	1.4
71	Târgu Ocna	Târgu Ocna	Bacău	11.5	4.6	6	2.4	3.5	2.2
72	Băile Homorod	Vlăhița	Harghita	8.5	3.4	8	3.2	3.3	0.2
73	Azuga	Azuga	Prahova	10.5	4.2	6	2.4	3.3	1.8
74	Petroșani-Parâng	Petroșani	Hunedoara	12	4.8	4	1.6	3.2	3.2
75	Stâna de Vale	Pietroasa	Bihor	15	6	1	0.4	3.2	5.6
76	Albeștii de Muscel (Bughea de Sus)	Albeștii de Muscel	Argeș	11.5	4.6	4	1.6	3.1	3.0
77	Vața de Jos	Vața de Jos	Hunedoara	8.5	3.4	7	2.8	3.1	0.6
78	Voineasa	Voineasa	Vâlcea	15	6	0	0.0	3	6.0
79	Amara	Amara	Ialomița	14	5.6	0	0.0	2.8	5.6
80	Costinești	Costinești	Constanța	14	5.6	0	0.0	2.8	5.6
81	Predeal	Predeal	Brașov	11	4.4	3	1.2	2.8	3.2
82	Pârâul Rece	Predeal	Brașov	11	4.4	3	1.2	2.8	3.2
83	Timișu de Sus	Predeal	Brașov	11	4.4	3	1.2	2.8	3.2
84	Tâșnad	Tâșnad	Satu Mare	7	2.8	7	2.8	2.8	0.0
85	Izvoru Mureșului	Voșlăbeni	Harghita	11	4.4	1	0.4	2.4	4.0
86	Zona Muntele Băișorii	Băișoara	Cluj	9.5	3.8	0	0.0	1.9	3.8
87	Lacu Sărat	Chișcani	Brăila	9	3.6	0	0.0	1.8	3.6
88	Straja	Lupeni	Hunedoara	8.5	3.4	0	0.0	1.7	3.4
89	Zona Fântânele	Râșca	Cluj	8.5	3.4	0	0.0	1.7	3.4
90	Călacea	Orțișoara	Timiș	5	2	0	0.0	1	2.0

An important role in defining the dominant category of natural/anthropic resources for the LATUs is played by: urban or rural environment, geographic position at the units of relief level, ethnographic and historic particularities etc. For the detailed analyses, to each type, three subtypes can be added, generated by the gap between

resources ($T_{NR}-T_{AR}$) and materialized through the dominance of one category (+/-). The positive value reflects the dominance of natural resources, while negative value reflects the dominance of anthropic resources. The three subtypes are identified through:

a.) *Reduced gap, under 3.0 points* representing the subtype of balanced system with a wide variety of anthropic and natural resources. An important role in the dominance of a certain resource category is played by: geographic position, unit of relief, urban/rural status and history.

b.) *Average gap, between 3.1 and 5.0*, emphasizing a tendency towards balance. Attention is paid to both categories especially by the increase of each resource category's weight, so as the tendency towards balance should not be determined by diminishing values.

c.) *Major gap, over 5.1*, which means a strong imprint of one resource category, and as directions to be followed, the gap must be diminished especially by increasing smaller values. These subtypes are for detailed analyses and they reflect more powerfully the contribution of each resource category. Usually, for subtypes **b** and **c**, there can be situations when a category of resources should have **o** (zero) points.

DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS APPLIED TO SLATUS WITH TOURIST RESORTS

After the fall of the socialist system, most of the Romanian tourist resorts entered a regress period determined by economic instability, by not understanding the market economy principles, inefficient privatization, lack of real investments into infrastructure, decrease of tourists' number together with opening the borders and amplifying international flux etc. In parallel, at LATUs level, their development in integrated system gradually changed into inefficient, „solitary” development with insignificant regional impact. All these determined the assertion of new assessment criteria of the tourist resorts, considerably reducing thus the number of resorts. In parallel, a series of other localities with tourist potential gained the status of tourist resort of national or local interest (Table 1), by means of clear strategies focused on quality criteria. Therefore the study focuses more on LATUs which provide both the natural and anthropic support under the form of resources and the administrative and legal framework regarding their valorization at the level of official documents (documents of resort attestation).

By applying the methodology proposed in this study and by analyzing the ratings obtained in assessing *the tourist resources* (T_R ; $T_{NR} + T_{AR}$; table 1), it is noticed that the 81 assessed LATUs have a rating between 8.8 and 1.0 (Table 1). By applying the typology proposed at the LATUs level according to tourist resource concentration and gap between resource categories, at the level of the 81 LATUs with existing tourist resorts in the Romanian geographic area, the situation can be characterized as follows (Table 1; Figure 1):

1.) LATUs with identified important tourist resources ($T_{NR} + T_{AR}$): average rating over 8.0. In the Romanian geographic area, there are only three urban LATUs in this category, situated dominantly in the mountain area, each with a tourist resort of national interest: Călimănești-Căciulata 8.8 (T_{NR} 10; T_{AR} 7.6); Herculane Băi 8.0 (10; 6) and Brașov 8.0 (6.4; 9.6) with Poiana Brașov (Figure 1). If in the first two cases the natural resources are dominant and have maximum rating, in the case of Brașov the high value is that of the anthropic resources. In all three cases, we notice the considerable input of tourist resources in defining and outlining a tourist system with high degree of functionality.

Out of the three proposed subtypes, naturally, the three LATUs fit into or tend towards category **1a** (Table 1) with reduced gap between 2 and 4.

2.) LATUs with high concentration of identified tourist resources, with rating between 6.1 and 8.0. This category includes 13 LATUs and 18 tourist resorts (Figure 1).

Thus, 11 urban LATUs have 11 national resorts and 5 local resorts, while two rural LATUs have two national resorts: Moneasa 6.6 (7.6; 5.6) and Sucevița 6.9 (3.8; 10). It is to be mentioned the fact that the city Mangalia has no less than 6 resorts of national interest. Within this category, only Vatra Dornei gathers maximum rating at natural resources category, while the anthropic resources have 10 points in Sibiu, Sucevița and Horezu.

At subtype level, we notice the tendency towards balanced systems, in subtype **1a** being a majority formed of 7 LATUs, the most balanced ones being Geoagiu (1.0) and Vișeu de Sus (-1.0). The subtype 1b is identified with 3 LATUs with values around 4, fact which indicates tendencies and action directions towards balance: Sibiu (-4.4), Constanța (-4.8) and Piatra Neamț (-4.4), all three with dominant anthropic resources due to their urban status and that of county capital.

The third subtype, 2c, occurs in two cases: Horezu (-6.2) and Sucevița (-6.2) with new resorts and where the impression of certain known anthropic tourist objectives (pottery center; painted monastery included in the UNESCO heritage) is obvious. The natural resources in latent state should be valorized, both LATUs, by their geographic position, benefiting of such resources.

3.) *LATUs with average concentration of valorized, identified tourist resources and with important tourist resources in latent state: rating between 4.1 and 6.0.* This category is the largest one with 41 LATUs and 44 tourist resorts. The urban area is identified with 26 LATUs on whose territory there are 17 resorts of national interest and 10 of local interest. In the rural area there are 15 LATUs, out of which one unit (Sânmartin 5.8) with a resort of national interest (Băile Felix) and one of local interest (Băile 1 Mai) and 13 LATUs with 17 resorts of local interest (Văliug commune with two resorts).

At subtype level, all three proposed ones are identified, with the specification that in these cases there is also zero rating for one category of resources.

The *subtype 3a* includes the most LATUs, a total of 19, with obvious tendencies towards balance (5 LATUs under 1.0), but due to the type, in most situations the quantitative/qualitative value is considerably diminished compared to the first two types.

The *subtype 3b* includes 15 LATUs, distributed in the entire range. Those with values close to 6 recommend action towards the direction of the resource with more reduced value, while where the gap tends towards minimum values, the diversification of both categories of resources is required.

The *subtype 3c* includes no less than 6 LATUs, fact which reflects a type with reduced average values and tendencies towards unbalance between the resource categories. Furthermore, two LATUs with important resorts (Băile Tușnad and Borsec) have zero value at the level of anthropic resources (Table 1).

4.) *LATUs with reduced concentration of identified tourist resources: rating under 4.0.* This type includes 23 LATUs and 25 tourist resorts. Amongst these, the LATUs Predeal (2.8) has 3 resorts on its territory: Predeal, Pârâul Rece and Timișu de Sus. There are 10 urban LATUs with 6 resorts of national interest and 6 of local interest (Figure 1). The 13 rural LATUs have each on their territory one resort of local interest, the lowest value being in LATUs Orțișoara (Timiș County) with Băile Călacea resort (1.0) (Figure 1).

It must be mentioned that no less than 8 LATUs record the value zero at the category of anthropic resources (Table 1), fact which clearly shows the direction to be followed. Out of these, 3 are of national interest (Costinești, Amara and Lupeni-Straja). At the level of details, the situation is as follows:

In the case of *subtype 4a*, there are 14 LATUs, usually with low values at both categories of resources, the most balanced ones being Tășnad 0 (2.8; 2.8), Vlăhița with Băile Homorod 0.2 (3.4; 3.2), Vața de Jos 0.6 (3.4; 2.8).

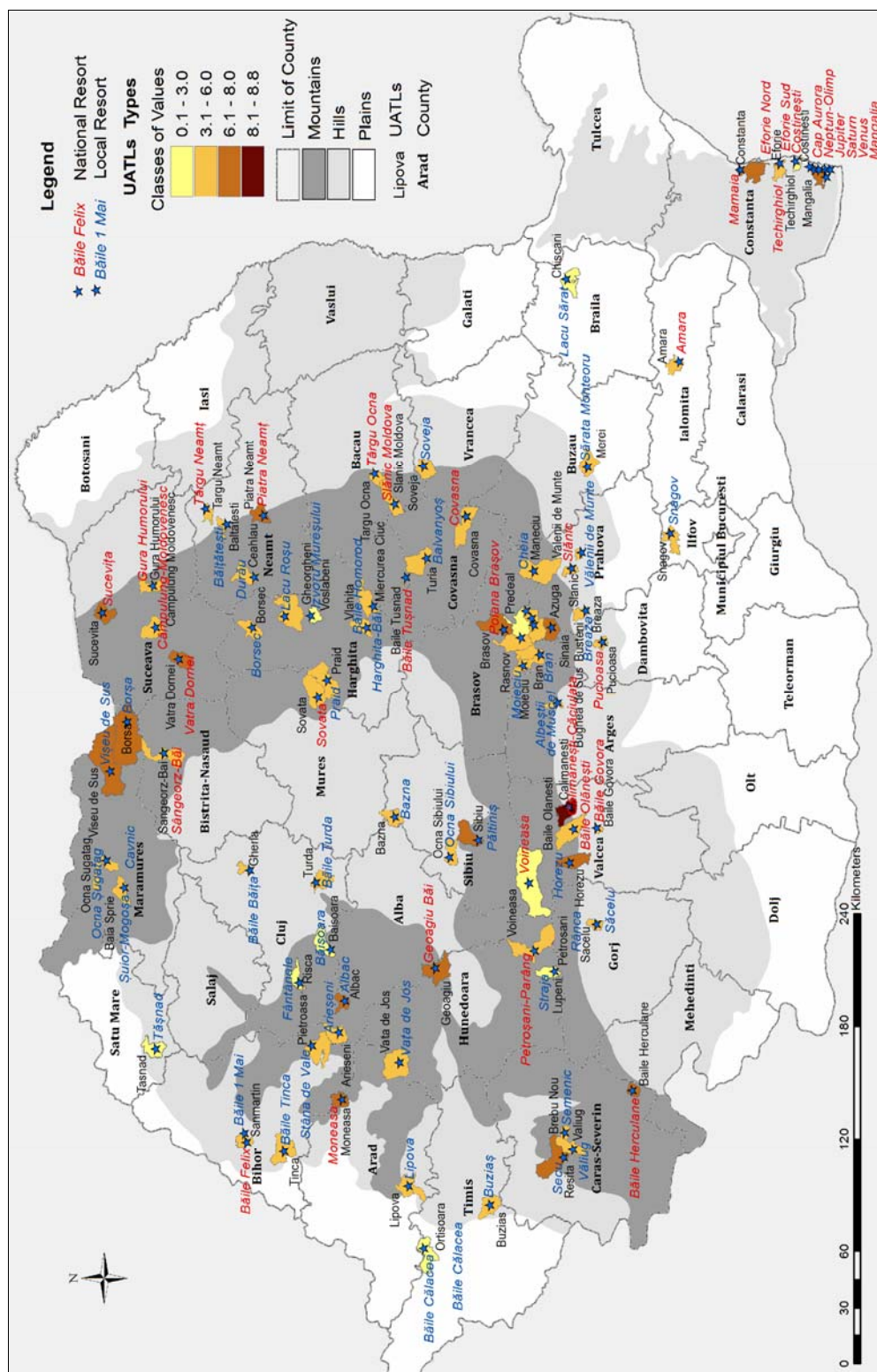


Figure 1. New typology of Local Administrative Territorial Units-support (LATUs) with National and Local Tourist Resort from Romania, 2014 (Data sources: www.turism.gov.ro/statistici-aestate.pdf; www.mdrt.ro/studii-de-fundamentare-privind-patn-sectiunea-a-VI-a-zone-cu-resurse-turistice)

In all these cases, the diversification of the tourist resource must be made, situation required by the low value of rating (under 3.0).

The subtype 4b with 8 LATUs, where the action direction is towards the improvement of low values and the insertion of new anthropic resources.

The subtype 4c with 4 LATUs, where three units do not have anthropic resources (Table 1) and the natural resources are important (over 5).

CONCLUSIONS

The determination of a method to calculate the values of natural and anthropic tourist resources with comparable indicators, groups the LATUs on four large types.

Each type determined like this has a certain distinctiveness regarding the ratio between the natural and the anthropic tourist resources, the contribution of each category to the outlining of the support LATUs after analyzing the gap between them ($T_{NR}-T_{AR}$), the domination of a certain category of resources (usually in correlation with the urban or rural environment, the relief unit and historic traditions) and the directions to be followed in elaborating strategies of planning and development of the territory in order to create tourist territorial systems with a degree of functionality as high as possible.

Each type has in its turn 3 subtypes (with variants **a.** –over 5.1; **b.** between 3.1-5.0 and **c.** under 3.0) with detail elements generated by the differences between the value of T_{NR} and T_{AR} within the same territorial system of LATUs type.

The first type refers to the ideal situation in which the two elements usually have a rating over 5.0 and an average value of over 8.0. The gap is usually minor, which means a balanced development at LATUs level of both resource categories.

A second type refers to the LATUs with high concentration of identified tourist resources with a rating between 6.1 and 8.0. In this case as well, the *subtypes a* and *b* dominate, both categories of resources being, however, identified with variations.

The LATUs with average concentration of valorized, identified tourist resources and with important resources in latent state: rating between 4.1 and 6.0, represent the third type proposed. It usually includes the most LATUs with regard to the tourist value but which, through its three subtypes, emphasizes the necessity of considerable improvements, especially in cases where a resource category has the value zero.

The fourth type of LATUs with low concentration of identified tourist resources, rating under 4.0, emphasizes LATUs defective in determining certain territorial systems with high tourist functionality. As subtypes, the *subtype c* dominates and in most cases, one category of resources is inexistent.

All the four synthetic types, with their afferent subtypes, are proposed by us as instruments which can be used in defining decisions regarding the outlining of certain strategies of planning and development of territory at LATU level for tourist purposes. In this case, the instrument is useful and applied in determining the functionality of tourist systems of tourist resort type.

This typology applied in Romania at LATUs level with tourist resorts, groups them and finally gradates them as follows:

- 1.) type 3 with 41 LATUs, relatively balanced at average level, but slightly urban dominant (26; 63%);
- 2.) type 4 with 24 LATUs rural dominant (15; 62%);
- 3.) type 2 with 13 LATUs dominant urban (11);
- 4.) type 1 with 3 urban LATUs.

An important role in determining the resource category (natural or anthropic) is played by: urban/rural environment; LATUs rank; the support relief unit (mountain, hill, depression, plain, seaside); ethnographic heritage; historic traditions, etc.

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