

# Particularities of the Inter-Community Development Area Alba Iulia from Romania

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## ABSTRACT

The inter-community development area Alba Iulia is situated in the Central-Eastern part of the county Alba. The association with the same name was founded on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2007. In the analysed area one can find accommodation units and foodservice operators, treatment facilities and ways of entertainment which are not concentrated around a resort but are spread in an artificial form in the hotels with a high degree of comfort. The position of the town Alba Iulia is favourable in relation with the heritage values, creating premises for the development of the tourism. The municipality Alba Iulia shows a unique combination of competitive elements: history, architecture and environment. The vision of development in the period 2005-2020 is based on a historic basis related to the Roman times, refined by the German culture and having inestimable symbolic values, as the military fortress Vauban. In what the tourism possibilities from this area are concerned, there are some tracks which lead to the main tourism objectives or which lead to areas and landscape of an unimaginable beauty. We can also mention the fact that due to the chalk and conglomerates composition of the mountains, some gorges have been formed which were already introduced in tourism circuits, the so called “Green Roads”. The Forestry Directorate Alba Iulia has initiated some tourism packages which it sells in the inter-community development area Alba Iulia, the accommodation is offered in its own welcoming units. One can also mention other sight in the surroundings of the town Alba Iulia, which can lead to the growth of the flow of tourists and implicitly to the development of the local economy as well as to some new tourism tracks and entertainment bases.

## KEYWORDS

accommodation structures, tourism heritage, tourism tracks, tourism planning, recreation area

## JEL Classification

L 83, R5, R11

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## 1. Introduction

Presently the large towns from our country do not face the rhythm of economic and demographic development from a physical point of view, which led them to the single solution expansion. Metropolitan areas are constituted in this way according to a benevolent association of common interests identified between the first and second municipality and the administrative-territorial units from the respective county.

The initiators of these projects wish to relieve the traffic from the large towns, to develop a unitary architecture, to access (through association) European funds destined for the regional development and to create some civilised living conditions for all the inhabitants of the metropolitan areas. The metropolis is a private law body, its purpose being the cooperation for the urban development in order to carry out common projects on public services, educational or cultural process which the villages or the communes could not carry out.

In such a favourable context for the sustainable urban development, The **Inter-community Development Association Alba Iulia** was founded on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 having as foundign members the local councils of six communes being in the next vicinity of the town Alba Iulia (Viñtu, Sântimbru, Ciugud, Ighiu, Galda de Jos, Cricău) to which the local Councils of the municipality Alba Iulia and of the town Teiuș and the Local

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County Council Alba may be added. The local representatives for the eight local councils are the mayors and the president of the Local Council Alba.

**The Association consist of the following categories of members:**

- a) **founders** – the ones who founded the Association and have contributed morally and materially to its foundation and to the formation of the social heritage.
- b) **adherents** – those who are associated with the foundation and contribute morally and materially to the completion of the heritage of the Association.
- c) **supporters** – legal entities who adhere to the statute of the Association and support is in order to attain the proposed goal and objectives.
- d) **members of honor** – natural entities who have brought and who are still bringing special benefits to the Association, who support it substantially from a financial point of view.

The association is constituted unde the form of a legal entity under the Romanian private law with no lucrative purpose and no political affiliation. The purpose of the association is the social and the economic development on a regional and sub-regional level according to some financially sustainable, qualitative, human and institutional actions. The general Meeting of the Association is the executive body led by a president, Mircea Hava who is the current mayor of the municipality Alba Iulia.

**The strategic objectives of the Inter-community Development Association Alba Iulia are the following:**

- ❖ providing and developing the local and regional territorial infrastructure;
- ❖ economic development based on competitiveness and creating new working places;
- ❖ rural sustainable development;
- ❖ planning the anthropic and natural tourism potential and the potential of the associated local communities;
- ❖ protection of the environment and providing sustainable human habitats;
- ❖ energetic eco-efficiency and promoting “the green spaces”;
- ❖ the development of the human resources and the planning of the ethnic, linguistic and religious mix;
- ❖ the improvement of the educational, social and health infrastructure on a regional and local level;
- ❖ continuous promotion and affirmation of the participative democratic values and of the European citizenship;
- ❖ the affiliation and/or the development of partnerships, as well as regional, national or international cooperation actions with other organisations: nongovernmental or of the public local and central administration, with universities, economic operators, patronages, trade unions, cultural organisations etc.

The invitation to take part in AIDA was send to other communes and towns as Sebeş which refused the entrance into this association due to some political problems. But the list still remains open for other territorial administrative units if they want this thing.

## **2. The specific of the tourism potential**

The tourism potential from the inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia is a rich and varied one, from picturesque landscapes to historic monuments with a special value. So, **the main natural tourism attractions from this area are:**

- **the rivers** Mureş, Ampoi, Stremţ, Galda;
- The mountains Metalici, Sebeş, Trascău, in a word the mountain range „**Apusenii**” which are a natural park. But only a small part of this mountain is part of the inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia ;
- Forest from the hills, 95% broadleaf forest and 5% pine trees forest.

- **cereals, orchards, vineyards;**
- numberless gorges as for example Cheile Întregalde, Cheile Tecșeștilor, Cheile Gălzii și Cetii;
- **natural curiosities:** Piatra Măgurii, Bulzul Gălzii, Piatra Verde, Piatra Grohotișului, Piatra Poienii-natural geologic reservations;
- **caves and potholes:** the pothole Sunătoarea, seven caves in the basin of the Valley Gălzii;
- **Edelweiss** situated on the lowest altitude in Europe (500 m);
- **Cascades** from the gorges of the valley Cetii which are spectacular being 4-8 m high;
- **Ighiel tarn**, a complex natural reservation. One has discovered on an anthropic way an incipient pollution of the water of the lake due to the fact that some people come and wash their cars in the lake after they have spent their weekend on the shore of the lake. These people are leaving behind many packages and food leftovers and a part of these go into the lake. Poaching the fish from the lake can be also added to this.
- **The lent lily glade from Tecșești.** Its position is extremely favorable for the involvement in rural and ecologic tourism, because it can be found in a region with a weak anthropic activity, with a traditional character and a humanized landscape typical for the Mountains Apuseni. At the same time it lies near many protected objectives which are extremely interesting as for example Cheile and Piatra Cetii, Cheile Tecșeștilor, Cheile Gălzii, Cheile întregalde, Cheile Mănăstirii and Cheile Râmețului.

Immediate measures are needed to be taken in order to protect these reservations because the threatening dangers are the exploitation of the detritus in order to maintain the roads, the grazing, cutting trees and tillers as well as the abusive culling of the Edelweiss.

**From the point of view of the anthropic tourism attractions,** the specific is given by the:

- **Alba Iulia Borough (Alba-Carolina)** with a history which is lost in the past and survived to two unifications. The borough is impressive due to its decorative elements and to the beauty of these seven gates of the fortifications which are unique in the whole European military architecture. From the six gates, only three gates have been preserved in their initial form, The 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> gate, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> gate only has the lateral pillars;
- **The earthen borough** from the Iron Age was discovered on the heights from the left bank of Mures in Teleac (4 km North-Eastern from Alba Iulia);
- **The Dacian borough from la Piatra Craivei** – a rocky mountain which dominates the horizon to the North has been the pillar of the Dacians and has scare the daylight out of the Roman cohorts;
- **The Romano-Catholic cathedral** from Alba Iulia which was built at the beginning of the XII<sup>th</sup> century on the ruins of a Roman halidom. It is the most valuable monument of the early medieval architecture from Transylvania and combines harmoniously the Romanic and the gothic elements.
- **The cathedral of reintegration** is also known under the name of the Cathedral of the Coronation (the sovereigns of the Romania Mare were crowned here on October 15<sup>th</sup> 1922) and represents the artistic expression of the national unity from 1918;
- **National Museum of Unification from Alba Iulia** counts among the most important museums in Romania, both from the point of view of the heritage but also from the point of view of its scientific prestige;
- **Batthyaneum Library** which has more than 50000 books, 19000 documents, 1230 manuscripts, 596 incunabula has one of the most valuable collections of this type from Romania. A valuable part of the "Codex aureus" (VIII<sup>th</sup> century), is kept here of fine parchment paper and it is written in gold. This old Latin manuscript was crated from the order of the king Carol the Great (742-814). The text of the manuscript has 238 pages and the Tetra gospels (that are the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luca and Joan from the New Testament), 111 papers, another part of the Luca and Joan

gospels (124 papers) is kept in the Vatican library in Rome (Pal. lat. 50). The covers 1 and 4 are made of ivory plates and are in London and Rome.

- **The equestrian statue and the bass relief of Michael the Brave** placed in front of the palace, the statue was sculpted in bronze by Oscar Han (1968);
- **Obelisk** was built in front of the 3<sup>rd</sup> gate of the borough in 1937 at the initiative of “Astra” and with the contribution of the population and it was dedicated for the leaders of the revolt from 1784-1785;
- **The Monument of the Hill Furcilor** was built for the martyrs of the revolt from 1784-1785, Horea, Closaca and Crisan, the monument is an obelisk made of rock where the three martyrs were broken of the wheel;
- **The reformed church from Teiuș** was built in the XIII<sup>th</sup> century, and the Catholic church in by the governor of Hungary Iancu de Hunedoara, as one can read from the gate and where one can the crow which is emblem of the family Hunyadi;
- **Archaeological site from Ciugud- Gorneț** (settlement from the Roman and Early Medieval Era) ;
- **Dacian fortress Apoulon** (I st century BC) from Craiva - Piatra Craivii;
- **Settlement from the Bronze Era în Bucerdea Vinoasă** in Curățuri and in Ighiel, Piatra Poienii;
- **Archaeological sites from the Bronze Era in Țelna but other communes;**
- **Archaeological sites from the Roman Era in Tibru – Cricău** commune;
- **Tumular necropolis at Hăpria;**
- **Reformed and Evangelic churches** from the XIII-XVI<sup>th</sup> centuries in all the component communes;
- **Martinuzzi Castle**, 1551 – Vințu de Jos
- **Kendeffy-Horvath manor**, XVIII century – Vurpar
- **Roadside crucifix and monuments for the heroes from the both World Wars;**
- **Other elements which belong to the technical heritage;**
- **Immaterial cultural values** traditions, customs, rituals, music, popular dances, traditional handcraft, shows, practices related to universe and nature.

The inter-community Development Area Alba offers a tourism potential characterised by the variety of the presentation and manifestation forms with major implications of the local economy.

### 3. The evolution of the accommodation capacities, of the foodservice operators and of the tourism flow

The tourism circulation from this area is characterised by an oscillating evolution of the main indicators, the number of tourists being smaller than the welcoming capacity and support.

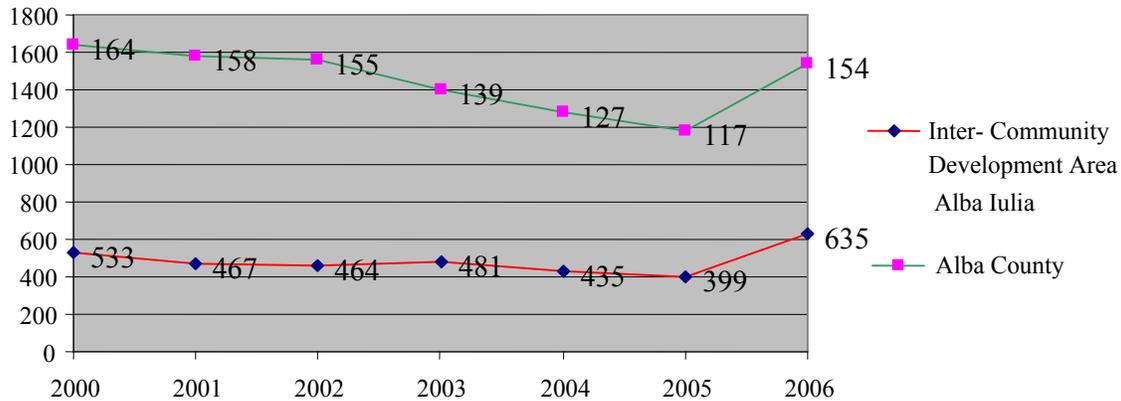
#### The evolution of the number of accommodation places in the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia in the period 2000-2006

Table no. I

Members of the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Municipality Alba Iulia</b>	533	467	464	481	414	379	565
<b>Town Teiuș</b>	-	-	-	-	21	20	18
<b>Commune Cricău</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Commune Ciugud</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Commune Galda de Jos</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Commune Ighiu</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
<b>Commune Sântimbru</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Commune Vințu de Jos</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total of the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>635</b>
<b>Total county Alba</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>1559</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>1544</b>
<b>Share of the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia (%)</b>	<b>32,4</b>	<b>29,4</b>	<b>29,7</b>	<b>34,4</b>	<b>34,0</b>	<b>33,8</b>	<b>41,1</b>

Source: data processed according to the General Directorate of Regional Statistics Alba

One can see in the table 1 that in the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia there is the lowest number of accommodation places which was registered in 2005, respectively 339 places and the highest 635 places in the first year of the analysed period which represents a growth with 236 accommodation places as opposed to the previous year.



**Figure no. I. The evolution of the number of accommodation places in the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia in the period 2000-2006**

In 2005 the lowest number of accommodation places was registered both in the inter-community area and in the county. The differences appear in the evolution of this indicator so that at the level of the area which is the object of this study one notices a substantial reduction of the number of accommodation places starting with 2003 up to 2005 when it was reached the lowest threshold, a loss of 220 places, and the situation improved in 2006 when there was a growth of 365 places as opposed to 2005. In the county Alba the situation is different because there was no important tendency of reduction in the given period 2003-2005, the reduction being only of 82 places, a similar situation with the one from 2006., an improvement with 236 places. In the period 2000-2006 the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia represented almost 33% of the total number of accommodation places registered at 31<sup>st</sup> of July in Alba. There is a growing tendency for the fix-based index 2006/2000 which represents a plus of 1, 2.

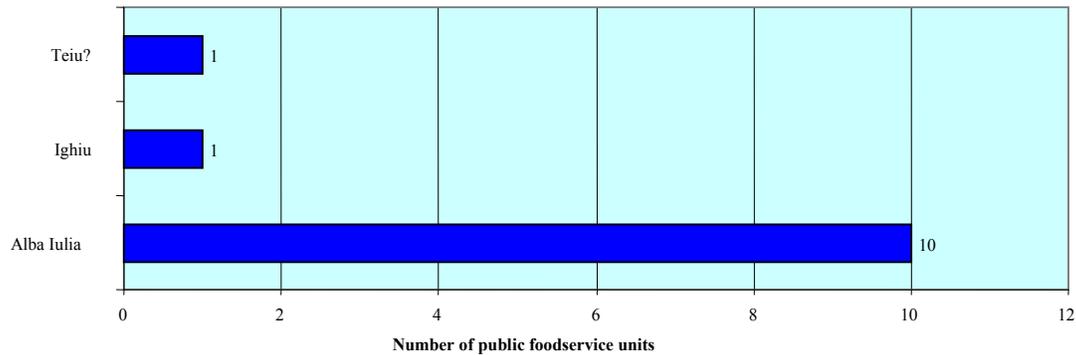
**The capacity of the public foodservice operators the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia, on categories of comfort in 2006**

**Table no. II**

Town	Number of public foodservice operators	Comfort category					Total capacity
		One star	Two stars	Three stars	Four stars	Five stars	
Alba Iulia	10	-	8	1	1	-	1290
Ighiu	1	-	1	-	-	-	195
Teiuş	1	-	1	-	-	-	260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	-	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1745</b>

**Source:** processed according to the Restaurants Guide 2007, Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism, the National Authority for Tourism

From the six constitutive of the Inter-community Development Area Alba only one of them Ighiu has homologated a single public foodservice unit.



**Figure no. II. The numeric distribution of the public foodservice units from the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia, on towns in 2006.**

Most of the restaurant units from the Inter-community Development Area are in the municipality Alba Iulia (10 units), followed by the towns Ighiu and Teius with one unit. As in the case of the number of units, most of the places are in the municipality Alba Iulia (1290 places) followed by Teius (260 places) and Ighiu (195 places).

#### **Number of Tourists accommodated in the inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia in 2005 and 2006**

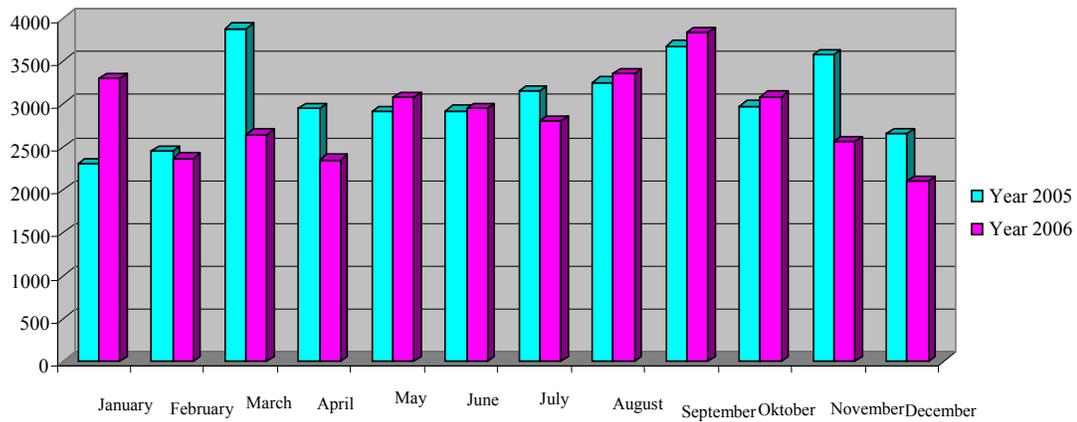
**Table no. III**

Luna	Tourists accommodated in 2005						Tourists accommodated in 2006					
	Total	%	Romanians	%	Foreign	%	Total	%	Romanians	%	Foreign	%
<b>January</b>	2306	100	2204	96	102	4	3300	100	2520	76	780	24
<b>February</b>	2450	100	1719	70	731	30	2366	100	2043	86	323	24
<b>March</b>	3880	100	1957	50	1923	50	2644	100	2188	83	456	27
<b>April</b>	2950	100	2029	69	921	31	2350	100	1951	83	399	27
<b>May</b>	2913	100	2069	71	844	29	3074	100	2567	84	507	26
<b>June</b>	2921	100	2051	70	870	30	2946	100	2359	80	587	20
<b>July</b>	3146	100	2267	72	879	28	2796	100	2133	76	663	24
<b>August</b>	3255	100	2365	73	880	27	3348	100	2564	77	784	23
<b>September</b>	3673	100	2517	69	1156	31	3829	100	3108	81	721	29
<b>October</b>	2976	100	2350	79	626	21	3086	100	2619	85	457	15
<b>November</b>	3569	100	3203	90	366	10	2565	100	2219	87	346	13
<b>December</b>	2650	100	2302	87	348	13	2102	100	1842	88	260	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36689</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26997</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>9692</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34406</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28116</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>6290</b>	<b>28</b>

Source: data processed according to the General Directorate of Regional Statistics Alba

In the two analysed years one can see that the highest share in the total of tourists accommodated goes to the Romanian tourists with 75% in 2005 and this percentage was growing in 2006 to 82%.

From the analysis of the 3rd figure one can see a relatively uniform distribution of the tourists accommodated in the 12 month of the years 2005 and 2006, where there are no high seasons which is a normal situation for the town where tourism can be practices during the whole period of the year.



**Figure no. III The evolution of the total number of tourists accommodated on month in 2005 and 2006 in the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia**

**4. SWOT analysis for the tourism potential**

As a consequence of the former analysis, one can also create a SWOT matrix for the existing tourism potential from the **Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia**

<b>Strong points</b>	<b>Weak points</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The existence of some natural valuable areas which are protected;</li> <li>▪ Hills and mountain landscape with a high tourism potential;</li> <li>▪ Special landscapes;</li> <li>▪ Rich and varied natural and cultural heritage;</li> <li>▪ The natural reservations offer multiple development possibilities for the agro-tourism;</li> <li>▪ Traditional appreciated cooking;</li> <li>▪ Possibilities of relaxation in a quiet natural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the existence of some polluting agents which increase the degradation of the natural resources and increase the process of forest degradation;</li> <li>▪ The towns from the area do not have enough purification devices and the communes do not have ecologic pits;</li> <li>▪ Lack of adequate promotion of the tourism resources from the area;</li> <li>▪ Tourism-cultural heritage is degrading;</li> <li>▪ The existing tourism capacities do not have the necessary facilities;</li> <li>▪ Weak developed tourism infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ Not qualified personnel;</li> <li>▪ The local authorities are not involving in the development of the tourism sector;</li> <li>▪ The phenomenon of “under counter accommodation”;</li> <li>▪ The lack of signs in the mountain area;</li> <li>▪ The lack of indicators for the natural reservations from the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Putting some community programs into practice of sustaining the investments in the field of the protection of the environment, of the purification, waste management;</li> <li>▪ Development perspectives for the rural development, agro-tourism and eco-tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extinderea fenomenului de uscare la păduri poate determina producerea unor catastrofe ecologice;</li> <li>▪ Accentuated pollution may lead to some irreversible damage of the natural heritage with a high tourism potential;</li> <li>▪ Gradual reduction of the tradition;</li> <li>▪ Overexploitation of the natural resources through inadequate pasturage, illegal deforestation, poaching, uncontrolled tourism.</li> <li>▪ Visual pollution of the natural environment with different kitsch buildings.</li> </ul>

**Figure no. 1. SWOT Analysis of the tourism offer from the Inter-Community Development Area Alba Iulia**

The premises being created **there have been taken some measures especially for the modernization especially of the infrastructure of the Inter-Community Development Area Alba Iulia** as well as drinking water supply, gases, the sewerage system and purification. At the same time **in what the possibilities of practicing tourism in this area is concerned, there were marked some tracks which lead to the main tourism objectives** or which go through some places and landscapes of an unimaginable beauty. We can also mention the fact that due to the limestone and conglomerates composition of this range of mountains there were created some spectacular gorges which have already been introduced in tourism circuits the so called “**Green Roads**” which are part of a large project called “the limestone road” which belongs to the Mountain Club Apuseni from Cluj Napoca (for example: the road of Gălzii, the road of Pietrei Ceții, the Lent Lily Road).

**The forestry directorate Alba Iulia has initiated some tourism packages** selling it to the Inter-community Development Area Alba Iulia. The accommodation is offered in their own welcoming units.

*All these tracks mentioned before can be visited at weekend by the population of the municipality Alba Iulia, and from those from the town Teiuș.*

### 5. Amenajări și trasee existente în Zona Intercomunitară de Dezvoltare Alba Iulia

In the municipality Alba Iulia there are not many ways of entertainment and this is not due to the lack of investments and of the initiatives but due to the mentality of the residents of this town, this attitude being shared by the other territorial-administrative units of the area. *The education, culture and tradition influenced the residents of this area in having another attitude towards entertainment and relaxation, their ways being more peaceful than in the capital or the larger town.* In other words, the population from the town can relax in some discos, clubs, terraces and bars or in the area called “**La Schit**” situated in the Western part of the town. One can see there a restaurant with a terrace, banks and wooden tables and a large surface of land. Behind this restaurant there is a **swimming pool** called “**Terasa viilor**” which does not provide qualitative service for the tourists, the water does not meet the normal requirements.

Another way of spending the leisure time is **going through some unmarked tracks in the Metallic Mountains** which lie above the “Schit”. In these forests the residents go for a picnic, but the area has no facilities for this activity.

**The bank of Mureș** is also a destination for the residents of the area, either for bathing or for a picnic but with no facilities included.

Near the hotel Cetate there is a **tennis ground** where the residents of the municipality can relax.

The town also has the Track of the Three Fortifications, a unique tourism objective in Europe which offers the visitors the possibility to travel in time along two millennia, in the three fortresses from three different epochs built on the same location, each new borough including the old one: The Roman Caster (106 AC), the Medieval Fortress (16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century) and the White Fortress Carolina, urban fortress Vauban (18<sup>th</sup> century). This location is visited especially by tourists.

The residents also go outside the municipality either to their holiday houses which they have in the peripheries or in **other nearby tourism areas** in order to **travel for a few days** because this area is rich in natural tourism attractions especially gorges and special landscapes.

### 6. Planning proposals for some entertainment-recreation micro-areas in the municipality Alba Iulia

Taking into account the cultural particularities and the inner character of the people from this part of the country **these are the following proposals for tourism planning in Alba Iulia:**

- ◆ **Modernization of the swimming pool „Terasa viilor”** by changing the existing equipment, the showers, devices for water chlorination and for the measurement of the legal parameters for the residual chlorine. The pool also needs interior finishing; the beach places must also be set up. The

existing cabins need to be modernised; One also has to set up the beach and sand places which are more comfortable than the grass. One should also open a shop where one could prepare and sell food products and refreshments, because presently the people are going out of the swimming pool area in order to buy different products. Other facilities are also imposed as: the existence of the water tanks and of the water channels on the edge of the pool; the existence of the depth warning signals "Bathing is forbidden", building additional extensions to the swimming pools – lockers, sanitary groups, for women and men. The capacity of this swimming pool should welcome almost 2000 persons.

- ◆ **Building a seasonal recreation complex** near the football stadium, on a surface of almost 2 ha, which will include two swimming pools (one for adults with a depth of 2 m, and one for children 50 cm deep) three sport grounds(football, tennis and basketball), playgrounds with specific play systems (on a certain theme, with water and sand, hiking systems with ropes, hiking walls, exercises systems etc.), two terraces, a coffee shop, a disco, facilities for skateboarders and rollers. This complex will include facilities for almost 1000 persons. 1
- ◆ **Building a covered recreation base** in the Ampoi neighbourhood on a surface of 15 000 m<sup>2</sup> which should include a swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, fitness room, football ground, five massage cabins, a medical treatment office for body care, losing weight, a cosmetics saloon. The maximum welcoming capacity of this entertainment base will be of 500 persons.
- ◆ **The forest above the „Schitului”** which is highly visited by the residents of the town Alba Iulia will include the following: **picnic places** with special fire places, garbage bins. The wood can be supplied against costs or the tourists may bring their own (in this way cutting the trees or the wood from the forest is forbidden and the people who are breaking this rule may also get a fine); **marking the track** which goes up to the Peak Mamut of 630 m and which requires an hour walk; **a paintball field**;
- ◆ Installing maps in the key points of the town (railways station, bus station, pavement) with key natural and anthropic tourism objectives situated on a distance of 20-30 km around the town.

**In the town Teiuş**, the river Mureş represents an attraction preferred by the residents of the town as well as the terraces and the bars from the town. If there were carried out investment projects in structures and recreation facilities, this place would be ideal because it already has the necessary facilities, electric energy, methane gas drinking water telephone, sewerage system.

**A particular case is represented by „the Inn Sf. Gheorghe” from Ighiu** which is 12 km away from Alba Iulia and it was opened in 1997 being a real oasis of relaxation and a destination preferred not only by the Romanian and foreign businessmen but also by the residents of the town Alba Iulia which want to relax at weekends.

Among the facilities there is a terrace, a bar, a swimming pool. The architecture of the inn resembles the house of a squire which was reconditioned without changing its structure and the basic architecture and being introduced in the tourism circuit. There are some problems related to the quality of the bathing water, and the fact that it is not changed at all in an entire season, the opening hours are not showed, the maximum depth is not mentioned, and there are no facilities for the first aid.

Due to the fact that **Galda de Jos** is a rich commune in natural tourism attractions, there are some planning proposals to be made in order to protect the natural monuments and reservations:

**Bulzul Gălzii** is a natural geologic reservation situated on the Bulzul Valley, 24 km away from Alba Iulia. The path needs which goes up for almost half an hour to be marked. It goes from the village Poiana Gălzii up to the limestone blocks. The marked track can even start from the town Alba Iulia

- ◆ In the commune Întregalde we meet some spectacular **gorges** which are declared geologic natural reservation. There was a lodge in this village which was closed and taken out of the tourism circuit.

In order to encourage the tourism in this area this lodge needs to be **reopened and reconditioned**. It has rooms with 2, 3 and 4 beds but also common rooms with bunks. On the road **Tecseștilor** which starts from the village Înregalde to the gorge Râmeți one could set up a camping with five houses and 20 tent places and 20 caravan places. This place will have facilities for current, an equipped kitchen and shower cabins, spaces to dispose the waste, etc.

- ◆ **Piatra Cetii** is a natural reservation which can be seen from the town Alba Iulia, by those who are willing to visit it one can mark the road from Alba Iulia to Aiud Benic up to the reservation.
- ◆ **The lent lily glade from Tecsești** lies near Piatra Cetii at an altitude of 950 m and it is declared a natural botanical reservation. Its **position is extremely favourable for a proper protection and for the involvement in the ecologic and rural tourism activity**, because it lies in an area with a weak anthropic activity, with a traditional character and a typical landscape for the Mountain Apuseni. At the same time it lies in the vicinity of many interesting protected objectives as Cheile and Piatra Cetii, Cheile Tecseștilor, Cheile Gălzii, Cheile Înregalde, Cheile Mănăstirii and Cheile Râmețului.

*Planning proposals:*

- *installing an indicating marker* in order to attract the attention of the tourists and of the residents on the importance of the reservation and on the sanctions for those who are breaking the rules;
- *creating an intermediate area* in the neighbouring lawn, where only moderate pasturage is allowed with small numbers of animals. The total elimination of pasturage could lead to the gradual appearance of the forest vegetation, and to the disappearance of the protected elements.

In this area one could carry out the following tradition activities, which should not affect the reservation: pasturage with a reduced number of animals.

**One can make the following planning proposals for the commune Ighiu:**

- ◆ **Piatra Grohotișului and Piatra Poienii** are declared natural geologic reservations. What is imposed is the installation of some new **indicating markers** on the county or communal roads from which one can find the paths to these cliffs, presenting the characteristics of the reservations( **marking the tracks or even the entire road from Alba Iulia** up to the cliffs) and the duration of the travel.
- ◆ **Iezerul Ighiel** is a natural complex reservation with a surface of 407 ha. Due to the fact that it is a reservation, the tents are forbidden around the lake, but this is not always done. In the Ighel village, before the 5 km road to the lake starts one can set up a camping place with 10 houses, 20 places which could offer all the specific facilities as shower, current. One can also set up special fire places and garbage bins.

**In the six component localities of AIDA** (Vințu, Sântimbru, Ciugud, Ighiu, Galda de Jos, Cricău) the residents are focused on the local activities as cultivating the land, silviculture or raising animals. The work in a household does not allow for spare time, or holiday. Anyway the mentality and the attitude of the residents from these places is to reject the possibilities of entertainment or even the tolerance toward this. Moreover in the tourism season period they are busy with the agriculture. So these communes do not need any facilities for relaxation and rest, maybe the potential tourists who are visiting. The period of recovering the investments is pretty long under such circumstances because the flows of visitors are not regular. If certain tourism facilities were created they will disagree with the living standard, the living and working conditions of these residents. In the communes Vințu de Jos, Ciugud, Cricău and Sântimbru, no tourism planning is imposed because the hosts do not have the necessary financial resources for such an investment. These communes do not have the necessary utilities and the access infrastructure is deficient.

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