

**THE EVOLUTION OF ESTABLISHMENTS
OF TOURISTIC RECEPTION, IN THE CONTEXT
OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA
DURING 2000-2014**

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Abstract

Tourism comprises activities that in interdependence with other industries, leading to economic growth with positive impact on the regional development of Romania.

The studies of the evolution of tourist accommodation structures highlight their tendency during 2000-2014 and structural changes which they register at the regional level, but also on the types of units.

The findings are based on the results obtained as a consequence of the changes made from one period to another or from one region to another or on the types of units, aimed to formulate and implementing regional development strategies leading to the elimination of regional disparities.

Key words: tourist accommodation structures, evolution, structural changes, areas of tourism development, regional development strategy

JEL Classification: L8

Introduction

The study is mainly focused on the analysis of evolution of tourist accommodation structures in Romania. The evaluation is done both over time,

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in 2000-2014 period and space, in the eight development regions of Romania, whilst taking into consideration the types of tourist accommodation structures.

Linking tourism activities with those of other areas determines an orientation of tourism development through a balanced expansion of tourist accommodation structures so as not to emphasize existing territorial disparities.

In this context, the results established following the research development of tourist accommodation structures in developing regions of Romania may be significant in relation to the Strategic Concept of Territorial Development, Romania 2030 (SCTD), prepared by the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing (MDPWH).

Since the 2030 SCTD in Romania seeks asserting the identity of regional-continental, its role in the region, increasing spatial cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development of Romania, we can create the necessary structures to ensure their integration in the EU through the continued process for mitigation of territorial disparities.

Defining Romania's territorial development framework enable triggering and continuation of the increase or decrease in the number tourist reception structures from one region to another in order to lead to a territorial division as balanced.

Research methodology

The research methodology approached include theoretical concepts, methods and techniques, processing methods, calculation of indices and indicators (from the average indicators to the structure indicators) obtained based on information taken from official data provided by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (NIS).

Given the homogenization process of territorial units for statistics EU regional, Eurostat has developed and included in the database REGIO Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS). In the context of Romania's accession to the EU, the main levels are NUTS: NUTS 1: 4 macro, NUTS 2: 8 and NUTS 3 regions: the counties in each region (Regulation (EC) No 176/2008, Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003) they presenting as follows:

- NUTS 1
- ✓ macro 1: with North-West and Center regions
- ✓ macro 2: with North-East and South-East regionns
- ✓ macro 3: with South-Muntenia and București-Iflovl regions

- ✓ macro 4: with South-West Oltenia and West regions
- NUTS 2 comprises eight regions and NUTS 3 comprises the counties of each regions as follows:
 - ✓ North-West: Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj
 - ✓ Center: Alba, Brașov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureș, Sibiu
 - ✓ North-East: Bacău, Botoșani, Iași, Neamț, Suceava, Vaslui
 - ✓ South-East: Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, Vrancea
 - ✓ South-Muntenia: Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova, Teleorman
 - ✓ București-Ilfov: București , Ilfov
 - ✓ South-West Oltenia: Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Olt, Vâlcea
 - ✓ West: Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara, Timiș

Establishments of tourist reception with functions of touristic accommodation ¹ are defined by NIS “any building or settlement which permanently or seasonally provides the tourists with accommodation and other specific services”. They have faced many changes in terms of their classification as types of tourist establishments specified in National Institute of Statistics publications, as follows:

- ❖ in 1990 the main tourist accommodation structures were: hotels, inns and motels, cottages and chalets, camping, school and preschool camps;
- ❖ in 2000 were presented statistical data on establishments of tourist reception of type of: motels for youth, motels, bungalows, holiday villages, tourists halting places, tourist lodges, tourist boarding houses, agrotouristic boarding houses, accommodation spaces on river and sea ships;
- ❖ since 2004 have added data on apartment hotels.

The trend of tourist reception structures on the timeframe 2000-2014 is analyzed in terms of average indicators which characterize the time series (average increase, average index). Regional structural changes or by type of units are highlighted by the results obtained as a result of determining the relative size of the structure.

Regardless of the indicators used, the results are those which give weight and highlight the information necessary in the formulation of regional development strategies.

¹ NIS - Tempo-online database

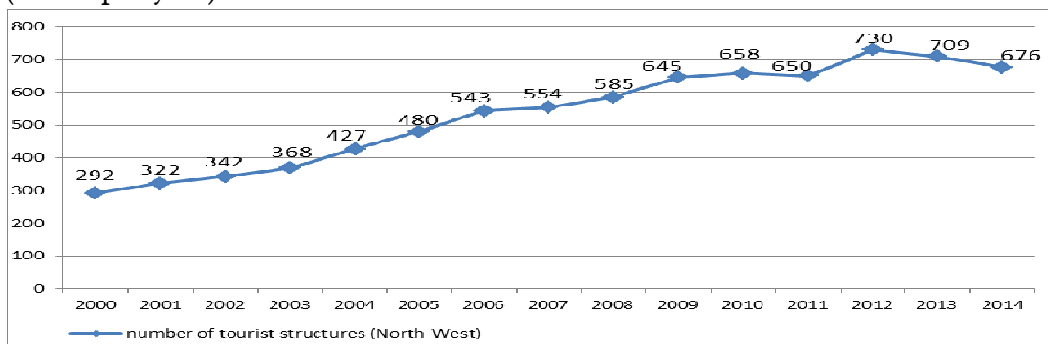
The last two places, in structural terms, in terms of territorial distribution of tourist accommodation structures are occupied West region with 5.19% in 2000 and 7.12% in 2014, respectively Bucharest-Ilfov region with values fluctuating between 2% and 3% (2.15% in 2000 and 2.82% in 2014).

Significantly for shaping regional strategic decision is the result of analysis of the evolution of tourist accommodation structures in each region during 2000-2014, depth by highlighting the structural distribution by type of tourist facilities.

Clearer presentation of the target has led to highlighting the results of the 4 macro with interpreting the results from the 8 regions.

Macro 1

In the first macro, it places the North West region, in whose territory the number of tourist reception establishments is quite low. Number of tourist reception establishments vary during the analysis (Graph 3) between a minimum of 292 units in 2000 and a maximum of 730 units in 2012, in the context of establishing an absolute average increase of about 28 units per year (6.18% per year).

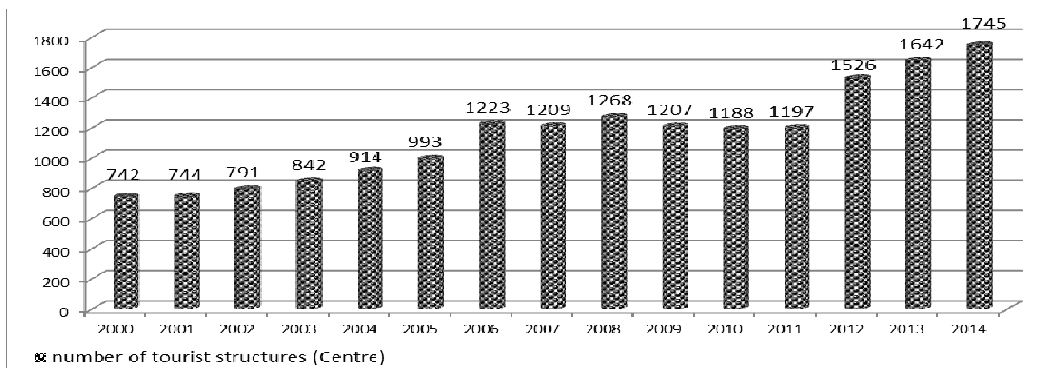


Graph 3 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the North West region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

A significant impact is determined by the types of existing units in the region. Thus, if in 2000 the first three places were occupied by hotels which accounted for 23.37%, followed by touristic villas, and agrotouristic boarding houses with 15.75% and 11.99% in 2014, agrotouristic boarding houses will be placed in the lead with 33.43%, followed by hotels, with 23.37%, and tourist boarding houses, with 20.26%. Structural changes reported are the result of setting up several agrotouristic boarding houses, due to changes in tourism

demand in recent years, tourism-oriented practice as close to nature in the context of increasing urban agglomeration and stress. Touristic halting places represent the type of units that were established within this region later, reaching as 2014 to 0.15%.

Regarding the distribution of tourist accommodation structures in the Central region, can be seen in chart 4 general trend of increase on average by 6.30% per year, an average absolute increase by about 72 units annually. It should be noted that this region has the highest average absolute increase compared to the other seven.



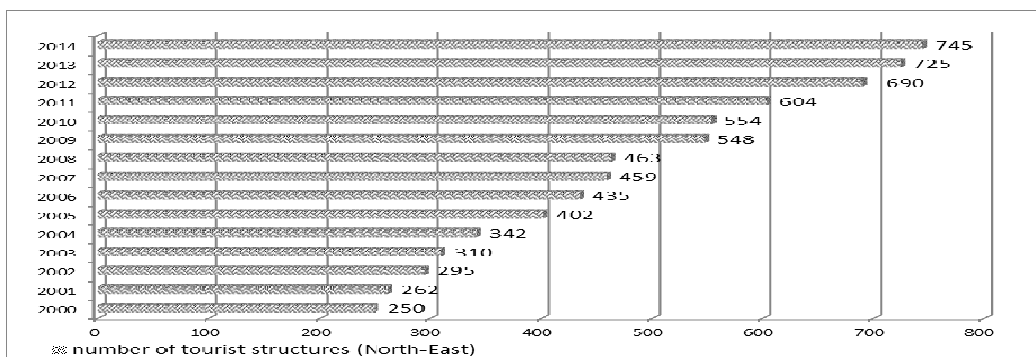
Graph 4 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the Center region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

The structure of tourist accommodation structures on their types in the Center, in 2000, puts the top three agrotouristic boarding houses (32.62%), tourist villas (25.74%) and hotels (14.82%) while, in 2014, second place will be occupied by tourist boarding houses with 27.74%, the other two maintaining the same place, but with slightly higher percentage of 37.98%, and respectively 14, 56%.

If in 2000, is registered, in this region, the existence of halting touristic places and apartment hotels, in 2014, they accounted for 0.23% and 0.11% and touristic inns which in 2000 accounted for 0.27%, gradually disappear.

Macro 2

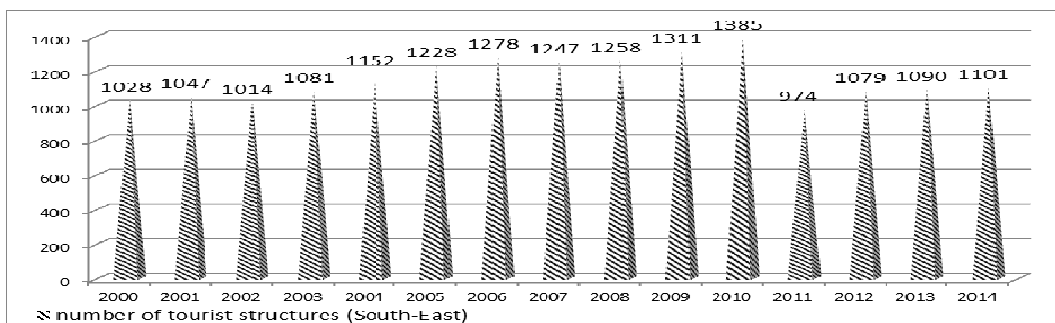
Trend of tourist accommodation structures in the North-Eesti, the first in macro 2 is still increase, as the other two belonging to the first macro.



Graph 5 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the North-East region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

Compared with the other seven regions, it recorded the most significant increase relative average with 8.11% annually. In absolute terms, this process is represented by the average increase about 35 units per year. The territorial distribution by types of institutions highlights the same competition for the first three places. It should be noted that signaled a slight change in ranking in 2000 when hotels ranked first with 25.20%, followed by agrotouristic boarding houses (20.40%) and touristic villas (13.20%).

Although, overall, and the second region, of macro 2 (South-East) also recorded a growth process, signaled by an average increment absolutely, only 5 units per year, relative to 0.49% annually, however, the graph 6 shall notify reduce their numbers since 2011, when the decrease is significant (with 411 units).



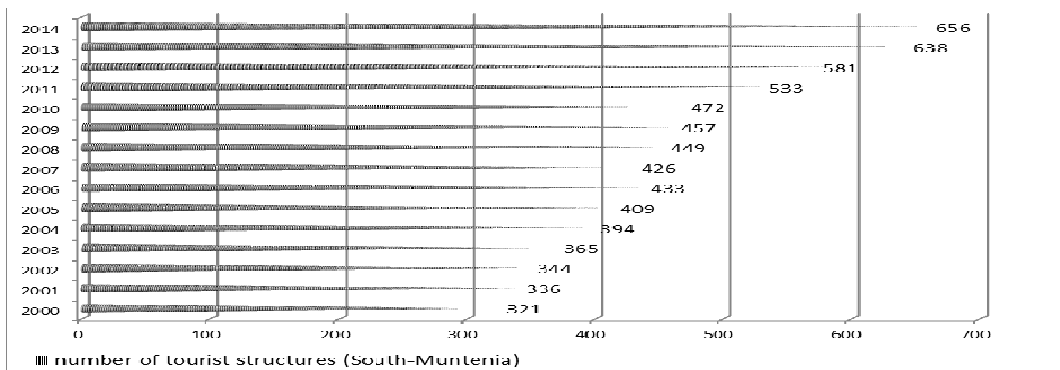
Graph 6 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the South-East region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

Along with touristic villas (32.49%) and hotels (31.81%) in the top of a ranking of the region in 2000 placed bungalows, with 18.77%, maintaining their

dispute, and in 2014, when he changes only the position of the first three hierarchical levels (hotels, with 35.34%, touristic villas, with 26.97%, and bungalows, with 13.08%). Touristic halting places and ships accommodation spaces, in 2000, ranked last, with 0.10% in the context of the region's territory is not reported the existence of apartment hotels,

Macro 3

Within the macro 3, South-Muntenia region recorded a growth over the period, an average of approximately 24 units per year, relative to 5.24% annually.



Graph 7 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the South-Muntenia region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

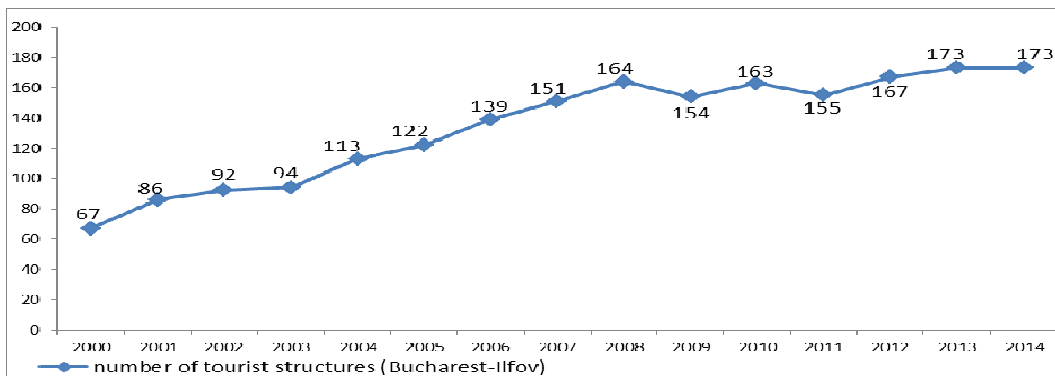
For this region distribution analysis by type of tourist reception establishments units in the region, translated into percentages, shows that, in 2000, the first two places are occupied by touristic villas and hotels, with 30.84%, respectively, 21.18% for the other types revert to low percentages ranging from 0.31% for hostels, tourist houses, and 9.35% for touristic boarding houses, given inexistence of apartment hotels.

In 2014 structural changes brought to the forefront also for this region, boarding houses agrotouristic, with 26.52%, and touristic boarding houses, which account for a significant percentage of 22.71%, placing it third, the second place being occupied by hotels with 23.62%.

Compared to all seven regions, within the region Bucharest-Ilfov, the number of tourist reception establishments is lowest due to its surface and potential.

Although the situation is not very favorable, in relation to others regions, as shown in Graph 8, the process of increase are almost continuous. On average

this development is placed around about 8 units per year and the average increase percentage is 7.01%.



Graph 8 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the Bucharest-Ilfov region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

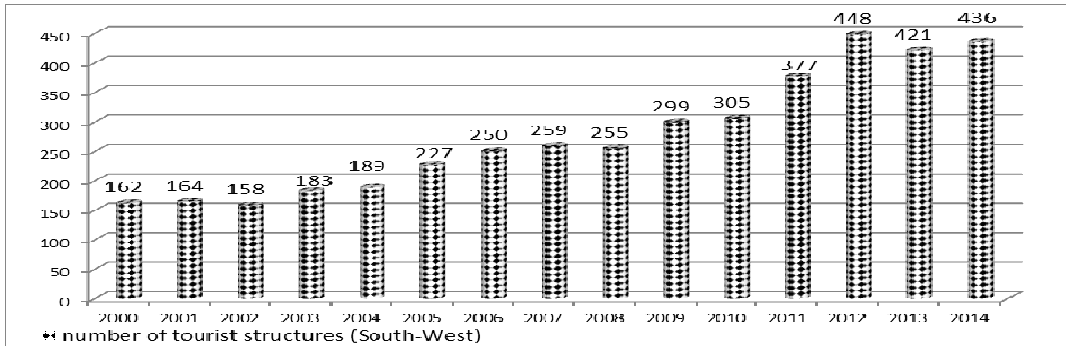
Considering the nature of Bucharest registers 53.73% percent (2000), respectively, 70.52% (2014), corresponding to hotels, and 29.85% for touristic boarding houses in 2000. In 2000 territorial distribution of unit records percentages between 1.49% and 5.97% distributed among bungalows, boarding houses agrotouristic, tourist houses, motels, tourist villas. Compared with 2000, in 2014 do not appear registered units of type of tourist houses, but appear the structural percents for apartment hotels, hostels, The minimum value belonging for touristic halting places (0.58%) and maximum for boarding touristic houses (7.51 %).

Macro 4

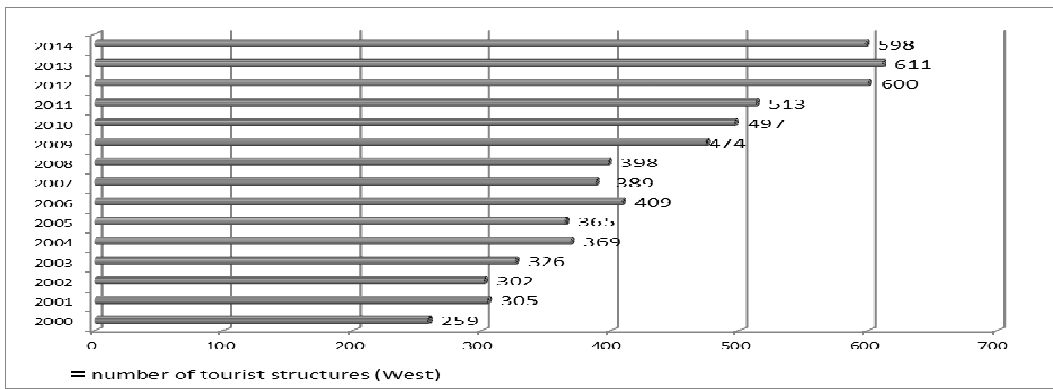
South-West Oltenia region also faces the same process of increasing the number of tourist reception establishments as the other regions. This increase is as absolute average growth of about 20 units per year and relative to 7.33%.

In 2014 compared to 2000, hotels, occupying the first place, were a reduction of 8.93 percentage points as touristic villas (second in 2000) which is more dramatic decrease of 17.67 percentage points. Significant increases are reported in 2014 compared to 2000 for the two types of tourist accommodation: touristic boarding houses, boarding houses and agrotouristic with 19.83 percentage points, 22.3 percentage points.

Last region analyzed in terms of the distribution of tourist reception establishments of the last macro is West region. The growth rate for this region during the analyzed period 2000-2007, is placed alongside the other seven, only that in terms of value set in absolute average increase is about 24 units per year and the relative by 6 16%.



Graph 9 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the South-West Oltenia region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction



Graph 10 - Evolution of tourist accommodation structures in the West region over the 2000-2014 period. Source: own construction

From the structural point of view, the distribution of tourist reception establishments on their types, record significant changes in that, touristic hotels and villas (first and second places in 2000) records the percentage reductions of 2.15 and 14.39 percentage points. These reductions causes a loss for other types of seats held that, with the establishment of a larger number of units, leading to a substantial increase of 22.18 percentage points for touristic boarding houses and 16.7 percentage points for agrotouristic boarding houses.

Conclusions

Overall, across all regions, there is a growing trend of evolution in the number of tourist accommodation structures while from structural point of view, in relation to their type was a pretty uneven distribution thereof. This conclusion would put question marks regarding the process of extended, which should have a balanced territorial distribution, the types of units should vary, offering potential tourists more options in choosing deals.

Synthesis study conducted leads to the following conclusions:

- ✓ all regions experienced sustained growth rates in the number of tourist reception establishments, only favorable situation in terms of quantitative and qualitative uniform expansion;
- ✓ structural top ranking by type of tourist accommodation structures were mainly played between: hotels, tourist villas, boarding houses agrotouristic, touristic boarding houses, which poses problems in terms of their diversity, their territorial distribution.

Presented results from the analysis of the evolution of tourist accommodation structures may represent significant strategic levers in the process of regional development of Romania.

Policies and decisions which may be formulated from the results, and highlighted throughout the article, exceed, a little, the limits and the coordinates previously established, leading to a process of stimulating the collaborations, of joint ventures or of partnerships, that are geared towards balanced territorial development in the future in Romania . At the same time, stimulation of inter-institutional partnerships at regional and territorial, it is necessary to include the promotion and implementation of projects, established itself as the primary goal, in the strategic proposals for regional development.

In this context, regional development priority in relation to tourism aimed at the expansion of tourist accommodation structures directly related to the reduction of regional territorial disparities.

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