

THE ANTHROPOGENIC HERITAGE AS A PREMISE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN SĂLAJ COUNTY

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ABSTRACT. – **The Anthropogenic Heritage as a Premise for the Development of Tourism in Sălaj County.** The anthropogenic heritage represents an integral part of the primary tourism supply. Together with the natural attractions, man-made attractions represent the essential reason for the emergence and development of tourism in Sălaj County or anywhere else. The identification and structuring of the anthropogenic attractive resources in Sălaj County was adapted to the configuration and specificity of the existing heritage in the analysed space, including the following types: archaeological sites and historical monuments, museums and memorial houses, monuments, statues, cultural and artistic events, as well as the intangible heritage (traditions, customs, music, dances, crafts). The data were collected from various bibliographical and online sources, as well as directly in the field. However, except for Porolissum archaeological site and Jibou Botanical Garden, many of these attractions are virtually unknown even in Romania, and they are mostly visited by locals, and by pilgrims in the case of churches and monasteries. Therefore, there is need for the setting up of a better overall image of Sălaj County as a tourist destination.

Keywords: *Sălaj County, anthropogenic heritage, man-made attractions, tourism development, Romania.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Regardless of the territorial extension or the rank a territory has in the tourism taxonomy – either as a tourist area, zone or region, the tourist resources of a territory integrate the totality of the elements which carry

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attractive features and reveal possibilities for tourist capitalization, no matter their natural or anthropogenic origin or the relations that exist between them. These elements lay at the basis of the emergence and development of the tourism phenomenon, and they represent its “raw material”. Their qualitative, quantitative and locational characteristics, corroborated with the insertion of tourism facilities which are adapted structurally, physiognomically, dimensionally and functionally (Cocean and Dezsi, 2009, Dezsi, 2006) may determine the setting up of converging tourism flows, differentiated in terms of scale, intensity and diversity, and to impose the option for the type or form of practiced tourism, and therefore the intrinsic value of the tourism consumption, and, as a result, the economic efficiency of the generated tourism act (Cocean and Dezsi, 2009; Glăvan, 2000; Glăvan, 2010; Căndea and Șimon, 2006; Muntele and Iașu, 2003; Ielenicz and Comănescu, 2009).

Together with the natural attractions of Sălaj County (which represented the object of a previous study, Rusu *et al.*, 2020), *the anthropogenic tourism heritage* represents an integral part of the primary tourism supply. Both categories of attractions represent fundamental factors or the essential reason for the emergence and development of tourism. The anthropogenic heritage is the result of a continuous process of multiplication and diversification, a consequence of the ascending-spiralled evolution of the material civilisation and spiritual culture of the population (Cocean and Dezsi, 2005, Cocean and Dezsi, 2009).

In this context, one may consider the anthropogenic potential as the one “which stays at the basis of the functional system of tourism” (Muntele and Iașu, 2003, p. 89, apud Cazes, 1992), integrating primary elements (the cultural and artistic heritage), those created for leisure, and the secondary elements generated by the tourism capitalization (the elements of tourism infrastructure or the technical and material basis). All these represent the decisive factor in making tourism a concrete spatial phenomenon, as the attractive components are transformed into a tourism product which may be capitalized during a sojourn that has a variable duration, and ensure the comfort needed for the tourism act to be conducted in optimal conditions (Cocean and Dezsi, 2009).

2. METHODOLOGY

The identification and structuring of the components of the anthropogenic tourism potential constituted the object of many investigations during the latest decades. Among these, one remarks the very complex classification performed by Glăvan (2000), who differentiates three categories

of anthropogenic potential: the cultural-historical one, the technical-economic one, and the socio-demographic one. They also comprise 18 subcomponents, from historical monuments and folk events, to tourist villages, economic units, social institutions and population. Another complex classification of the potential generated by the human factor was performed by Minciu (2004), who established 12 subcategories of anthropogenic attractions, included into homogeneous groups of socio-demographic potential, technical-economic potential, institutions and events, as well as cultural and artistic attractions. In contrast, Ciangă (1997 and 2007) has a different approach, strictly related to the cultural and historical features of the anthropogenic potential, whose composing elements are classified in an organised manner in categories, subcategories and elements. A less complex and therefore less relevant classification has been performed by Căndea and Şimon (2006), who assimilated the anthropogenic heritage with the set of cultural and socio-economic components of the anthropogenic environment. In their turn, Ielenicz and Comănescu (2013) group the anthropogenic attractions according to their historical character, their architectural, artistic and religious significance, their ethnical, folk, economic, artistic or commemorative nature.

A more comprehensive formula for the classification and approach of the anthropogenic attractive resources was proposed by Mac (1992) and used by Cocean and Dezsi (2009) and partially by Neğuţ (2003), Dezsi (2006), Răcăşan (2014), Răcăşan (2015), Răcăşan *et al.* (2016), Moldovan *et al.* (2019), etc. The elements comprised in this classification are the historical buildings, the religious buildings, the cultural buildings, the economic buildings that have a tourism function, the human activities that have a tourism function, and the ethnographic tourism resources.

In this context, the identification and structuring of the anthropogenic attractive resources in Sălaj County was adapted to the configuration and specificity of the existing heritage in the analysed space, including the following types: archaeological sites and historical monuments, museums and memorial houses, monuments, statues, cultural and artistic events, as well as the intangible heritage (traditions, customs, music, dances, crafts).

The identification of the attractive features of the anthropogenic tourist resources in the analysed territory started from the reference works which outlined the logical succession of the stages, phases and specific activities for such an approach, focused on the geographical and tourism analysis of a territory (Cocean and Dezsi, 2005, Dezsi, 2006, Ciangă and Dezsi, 2007, Cocean and Dezsi, 2009). Apart from the theoretical and methodological studies, the authors examined the existing bibliographical references, including diverse ethnographic and folklore studies, monographies of the communes, including settlements or other areas whose territory corresponds administratively to parts of Sălaj County (Burghеле, 2015-2017, Medve, Daroczi and Coste, 2011), as well

as other monographic studies or research projects focused on the entire county (Mór, 1901-1904, Morariu and Sorocovschi, 1972, Abrudan, 2007, Babih, *et al*, 1980, Cormoș, 1980, Vedinaș, 2018), a number of scientific papers (Ciangă, Dezsi and Pop, 2010, Pop, 2007, 2008a, 2009a, 2009b, 2015), plans and development strategies at county level or county seat level (Pop, 2008b, Pop 2011, PATJ, 2020-2021), tourism guides (Pop, Bălaș and Bodis, 2013), the Romanian Encyclopedia (http://enciclopediaromaniei.ro/wiki/Portul_popular_din_Transilvania), cartographic resources (Romanian Ethnographic Atlas, Ghinoiu, 2003a, b, 2005a, b, 2011), and a lot of information from online sources (by accessing the websites of specialized institutions, such as the National Institute of Heritage – <https://patrimoni.ro/images/lmi-2015/LMI-SJ.pdf>, the Cultural Memory Institute – http://www.cimec.ro/Monumente/LacaseCult/default_ro.htm, Sălaj County Council – https://www.cjsj.ro/date/pdfuri/PATJ%20Salaj-%20Et.%20III/PATJ_etapa%20III_rev.pdf). All these were of course corroborated with the authors' own observations and information obtained and collected directly in the field.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The territory of Sălaj County favoured an intense, continuous and ancient habitation, proven by prehistoric, Dacian and Roman archaeological remains, and continued in specific historical conditions during the Middle Ages and in modern times. The peculiar conditions of historical, economic, social and political development of the analysed region allowed the insertion and active adaptation of the human element, and were reflected in the culture and traditions of the inhabitants and their system of values. The social, cultural and economic peculiarities have not been lost or diluted in time, as they have been well individualized as a result of a specific centuries-old evolution, nevertheless integrated in the Transylvanian regional space.

The cultural and historical tourism heritage is represented by numerous archaeological sites and historical monuments, on one side, as well as museums, memorial houses, monuments, statues, and a series of cultural and art events, and the intangible heritage (traditions, customs, folk costumes, music, dance, traditional crafts).

Among the archaeological sites, the one near Moigrad stands out, including two Roman forts and the Roman town of **Porolissum**. It was partly built over a Dacian village and controlled the entire northern part of the Roman province of Dacia, and later it became the capital of Dacia Porolissensis province. Located on the territory of two communes (Mirșid and Creaca), the archaeological site covers a very large area (over 500 ha), on Măgura Pomăt Hill and around it (Citera Hill). In the context in which only 10% of the site was researched in detail, a series of elements are nevertheless visible and

available for visit, such as a part of the Roman town, the amphitheater, the customs, the Roman road, the basilica, a part of the neighbouring military vicus, the thermae, many other well-preserved remains from the pre-Roman and Roman antiquity, and also from the early Middle Ages.

As this is the main archaeological tourist attraction in Sălaj County, and one of the main attractions in the county on the whole, the archaeological site at Porolissum, along with the one in **Buciumi**, were the beneficiaries of works regarding conservation, consolidation, functional and volumetric rehabilitation, setting of pedestrian paths, ambient lighting, setting up of access routes, bridges, parking lots and sanitary facilities, included within the project “The itinerary of Roman forts in Sălaj County”, implemented by Sălaj County Council together with the local government of Mirșid and Buciumi communes, using European funds from ROP 2007-2013.

The other Roman forts in Sălaj County, such as those at Românași (Largiana), Sutoru (Optatiana), Tihău, Romita (Certinae), could also be capitalized as tourist attractions if minimal planning works are executed.

Table 1. Cultural heritage values of national interest (historical monuments of exceptional national value) in Sălaj County, according to Law no. 5/2000

Monument	Type	Location	Year / century
Báthory Castle	Castle	Șimleu Silvaniei	16 th century
Church of the Holy Archangels	Wooden church	Hida, Baica	1645
Church of the Holy Archangels	Wooden church	Românași, Ciumărna	18 th century
Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit	Wooden church	Fildu de Jos, Fildu de Sus	1727
Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos	Wooden church	Românași, Păușa	1730
Church of the Holy Archangels	Wooden church	Românași, Poarta Sălajului	18 th century
Church of Saint Mary	Wooden church	Letca	1665
Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos	Wooden church	Năpradea, Vădurele	17 th century
Cave painting (Cuciulat)	Paleolithic complex	Letca, Cuciulat	Upper Paleolithic
Area of Dacian ritual graves: fortified enclosure with rampart and ditch (Măgura Hill)	Necropolises and sacred areas – the Iron Age	Mirșid, Moigrad	Iron Age
Porolissum archaeological site: two forts, Roman town of Porolissum	Forts and associated civil settlements	Mirșid, Moigrad	2 nd – 4 th centuries
The Roman fort at Buciumi and the military vicus	Forts and associated civil settlements	Buciumi	2 nd – 3 rd centuries

Source: Law no. 5/2000 regarding the approval of the National Masterplan – section III – Protected Areas

Table 2. Other historical monuments of national interest
(according to the 2015 List of Historical Monuments)

Monument	Type	Location	Year / century
Roman burgus at "Fântâna Sușigului"	Archaeological	Zalău (Ortelec)	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Archaeological site at Brebi, "Dealul Dungii", with stone vallum (clausura) and Roman burgus	Archaeological	Creaca, Brebi	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Earth vallum, "Roata Dungii"	Archaeological	Creaca, Brebi	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Archaeological site at Brusturi, "La Ruine"	Archaeological	Creaca, Brusturi	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Archaeological site at Crasna, "Csereoldal" terrace	Archaeological	Crasna	Bronze Age
Archaeological site at Jac, "Pe cămin" – earth fortress, quarry and cells	Archaeological	Creaca, Jac	Hallstatt – 11 th century
Archaeological site at Marca, "Cetate"	Archaeological	Marca	Latene – 11 th century
Archaeological site at Moigrad-Porolissum, "Dealul Măgura", fort and sacred area	Archaeological	Mirșid, Moigrad	Latene – 14 th century
Settlement, "Tigoiul lui Benedek"	Archaeological	Nușfalău	8 th – 9 th centuries
Tumular necropolis, "La Vulpiște"	Archaeological	Nușfalău	8 th – 9 th centuries
Settlement, on a terrace above on old quarry	Archaeological	Ileanda, Perii Vadului	Upper Paleolithic
Roman fort and military vicus, "La Cetate"	Archaeological	Românași	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Roman fort and military vicus, "Gura Căpușului"	Archaeological	Zimbor, Sutoru	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Necropolis, "Grădina Cetății" ("Várkert")	Archaeological	Șimleu Silvaniei	Bronze Age
Archaeological site at Șimleu Silvaniei, "Dealul Cetății" ("Várhegy") – settlement and fortification	Archaeological	Șimleu Silvaniei	Bronze Age – 15 th century
Archaeological site at Șimleu Silvaniei, "Dealul Măgura – Observator" – fortified settlement	Archaeological	Șimleu Silvaniei	Iron Age – Early Middle Ages
Roman fort and military vicus, "Grădiște"	Archaeological	Surduc, Tihău	2 nd – 3 rd centuries
Fortified settlement, "Burzuor"	Archaeological	Zalha	2 nd – 1 st centuries BC, Latene
Settlement, "Temetödomb" ("Dâmbul Cimitirului")	Archaeological	Ip, Zăuan	Bronze Age
Almașu Fortress (ruins)	Architecture	Almașu	13 th century, r. 1627
Wooden church "The Dormition of the Theotokos"	Architecture	Bălan (Cricova)	17 th century
Wooden church "The Holy Virgin Mary"	Architecture	Gâlgâu, Bârsău Mare	1690

Monument	Type	Location	Year / century
Wooden church "Saint George"	Architecture	Someș-Odorhei, Bârsa	18 th century
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Creaca, Borza	1758
Wooden church "The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul"	Architecture	Treznea, Bozna	17 th century
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Creaca, Brebi	1759, r. 1853
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Creaca, Brusturi	1701
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Sălățiș, Bulgari	1547
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Camăr	18 th century
Wooden church "The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul"	Architecture	Șimleu Silvaniei, Cehei	18 th century
Protestant Church	Architecture	Cehu Silvaniei	1519-1614
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Chieșd	18 th century
The complex of the Protestant Church	Architecture	Coșeiu	15 th century
Protestant Church	Architecture	Crasna	1380-1400
Wooden church "Saint Hierarch Nicholas"	Architecture	Creaca	1710
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Bobota, Derșida	1700
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Dobrin, Doba	16 th century
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Dobrin	1720
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Someș-Odorhei, Domnin	1753
Wooden church "Saint Basil the Great"	Architecture	Dragu	1806
The complex of Bethlen Castle	Architecture	Dragu	18 th – 19 th centuries
Wooden church "Saint Nicholas"	Architecture	Gâlgău, Fodora	1817
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Hida	1717
Wooden church "The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel"	Architecture	Cehu Silvaniei, Horoatu Cehului	1749
Wooden church "The Dormition of the Theotokos"	Architecture	Ileanda	17 th century
The complex of Wesselényi Castle	Architecture	Jibou	1779-1810
The complex of the Protestant Church	Architecture	Meseșenii de Jos	15 th – 17 th centuries
Church "The Dormition of the Theotokos"	Architecture	Meseșenii de Jos, Meseșenii de Sus	1785

Monument	Type	Location	Year / century
The complex of the Protestant Church	Architecture	Sălățiș, Mineu	1514 – 18 th centuries
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Cehu Silvaniei, Nadiș	1738
Protestant Church	Architecture	Nușfalău	1450-1480
Wooden church “The Dormition of the Theotokos” of Strâmba-Fizeș former monastery	Architecture	Hida, Păduriș	1725
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Băbeni, Poienița	18 th century
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Hida, Racăș	1741
Wooden bell tower	Architecture	Vârșolt, Recea	1754
Wooden church “Saint Nicholas”	Architecture	Românași, Romita	18 th century
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Sânmihaiu Almașului	1778-1794
Wooden church “The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul”	Architecture	Hida, Sânpetru Almașului	17 th century
Protestant Church	Architecture	Almașu, Stana	1640, m. 1742
Roman-Catholic Church	Architecture	Șimleu Silvaniei	1532, r. 1666
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Letca, Șoimușeni	16 th century
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Letca, Toplița	16 th century
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Sâg, Tusa	18 th century
Wooden church “The Nativity of the Theotokos”	Architecture	Cehu Silvaniei, Ulciug	18 th century
Wooden church “The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel”	Architecture	Dragu, Voivodeni	1820
Wooden church “The Dormition of the Theotokos”	Architecture	Zimbor	1643
Crypt-ruins	Memorial and funeral	Jibou	1779-1810

Medieval fortresses may be interesting tourist attraction in their turn. Among them, Almașu Fortress, Valcău Fortress, Aranyos Fortress in Cheud and Báthory Castle (or Fortress) in Șimleu Silvaniei are the best known ones. **Almașu Fortress** was built in the 13th century, suffered many vicissitudes, and it was destroyed several times. It was rebuilt by the Csáky noble family in 1627, but then again destroyed for good and in a state of ruin ever since. It

might capitalize for tourism if the access routes and the interior are properly arranged. It is a historical monument of national importance.

Valcău Fortress, located within the territory of Valcău de Jos commune, is even less preserved. It is located near Barcău Valley, and it probably controlled the entire upper stream of Barcău. The architectural remains are simple and few. The keep, preserved only in part, belongs stylistically to the Transylvanian military architecture of the 13th – 14th century due to its rectangular shape.

Aranyos Fortress (or **Pintea's Fortress**) is located near the village of Cheud (Năpradea commune) and it has a strategic position on the right bank of Someș River, just before the entrance to the Benesat-Țicău defile. It was a nobiliary fortress built most likely in the 13th century, and used until the 16th century. The ruins are quite impressive.

Báthory Castle (or **Fortress**) in Șimleu Silvaniei is even more impressive. It was built in 1532 by Stephen Báthory on the site of a previous fortress. It was the residence of the Báthory noble family, which gave numerous kings of Hungary and Poland, as well as Princes of Transylvania. It comprises a vast nobiliary domain in the central area of Șimleu Silvaniei. In the middle of this area, there was a castle built in a Renaissance style. Nowadays, only a part of it is preserved – some of the bastions, a part of the rampart wall, as well as a gate, all included as historical monuments of national importance.

Apart from Báthory Castle, there are many other castles or manors in the county. They once belonged to noble families, they were built more recently (usually during the 18th or 19th century), and some of them are classified as historical monuments of national importance.

The two castles in Jibou are among the most famous and most visited ones. **Wesselényi Castle** was built between 1779 and 1810, while **Beldy Castle** was built at the beginning of the 20th century. **The complex of Wesselényi Castle** actually includes more buildings and areas, such as: the castle itself, the park (today designed as part of **Jibou Botanical Garden**), the curia, the riding arena, the greenhouse, the stables, the barn, and the crypt, nowadays all classified as historical monuments of national importance. **“Vasile Fati” Botanical Garden** in Jibou, founded in 1968, is the main tourist attraction in the county according to the number of visitors, along with Porolissum archaeological site. It covers an area of 24 ha and has a rich dendrological fund of exotic plant species. The botanical greenhouses shelter a valuable and varied collection of tropical, subtropical and Mediterranean plants, which are grouped systematically or ecologically. The garden also includes a high pavilion for the palm tree collection, a sector for useful plants, and a very large sector for ornamental, herbarium and museum plants.



Fig. 1. The anthropogenic tourism potential of Sălaj County, Romania.
Source: the authors.

Beldy Castle was built at the beginning of the 20th century by the Beldy noble family in a beautiful oak forest. For many years, it served as a hospital for patients with neuropsychic disorders.



Fig. 2. Bay Castle in Treznea, before its collapse.
Photo by Raularian Rusu

Among the other castles and manors, one may list: **Bethlen Castle** in Dragu (historical monument of national importance), built during the 18th and 19th century, Bay Castle in Treznea (unfortunately collapsed), Csáky Castle in Almaşu (also very degraded), Zombory Castle in Zimbor, Haller Castle in Gârbou (in ruins), Bánffy Castle in Nuşfalău, Josika Castle in Surduc, Hatfaludy manor in Hida.

A very vast category of tourist attractions is represented by **churches** and **monasteries**. From this perspective, there are many churches across the territory of Sălaj County, and especially the wooden churches are classified as historical monuments of exceptional value.

The wooden churches are very representative for Sălaj County. Their number is very high, and most of them are classified as historical monuments of national importance. In their majority, they are either Orthodox or Greek-Catholic. The wooden churches represent more than half of the objectives found on the list of historical monuments of national importance in Sălaj County.



Fig. 3. The wooden church in Racâș. *Photo by Raularian Rusu*

The wooden churches in Baica, Ciumărna, Fildu de Sus, Letca, Poarta Sălajului and Vădurele were also included on the list of cultural heritage values of national interest (historical monuments of exceptional national value) according to Law 5/2000. Others, such as those in Sânmihaiu Almașului, Sânpetru Almașului, Hida, Racâș, Domnin, Voivodeni, Tusa, Toplița, Poienița, Zimbor, Creaca, Doba, Ulciug, Brebi, Brusturi, Camăr, Derșida, Cehei, Chieșd, Dobrin, Dragu, Șoimușeni, Romita, and Bălan, are included in the list of historical monuments of national importance. Many of these churches were built between the 16th and the 19th centuries by different specialized craftsmen. They preserve original paintings on wood, wall paintings, ancient decorations and objects, and they are mostly appreciated for their unique architecture at European and global level. Some of these churches have been moved from their original site to other places, in other villages, therefore becoming “travelling churches”. Even more recently, one of the wooden churches in Letca, the one named as “belonging to the nobles”, has been transported and is currently

located in the courtyard of the University of Oradea. The wooden church in Cizer, built by Horea and his team of craftsmen, was moved in 1968 to the Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania in Cluj-Napoca.

A number of wooden churches in Sălaj County were integrated in the project “The itinerary of wooden churches in northern Transylvania”, and were the beneficiaries of investments from the side of Sălaj County Council, which used funds from ROP 2007-2013.

Apart from the wooden churches, the regular (stone) churches have also a certain importance for tourism, especially the older ones. Therefore, one remarks the **Protestant churches** in Nuşfalău, Cehu Silvaniei, Coşeu, Meseşenii de Jos, Mineu, Sfăraş, Crasna and Stana, built in Gothic or Renaissance style. Some of these churches have some later additions, such as the wooden bell towers, which were built separately from the main building of the church. Most of these churches are historical monuments of national importance.

Among the other stone churches that are included on the list of historical monuments of national importance, only two belong to other denomination than the Protestant one, namely the **Roman-Catholic Church of Şimleu Silvaniei**, built in a late Gothic style under the patronage of the Báthory family, with some later additions (including the Baroque tower), and the **Orthodox Church of “The Dormition of the Theotokos” in Meseşenii de Sus**.

The monasteries are in a lower number compared to those in other counties, and are less famous, as they are more recent. However, the monasteries in Bic, Bobota, Voivodeni, Rus and Strâmba attract numerous tourists, especially those focused on religious tourism. The number of tourists increases on the feast days. One remarks the **Strâmba monastic complex** that includes, apart from the wooden church, a dendrological park and a small zoological park.

The museums and memorial houses represent a special category. The **County Museum of History and Art in Zalău** stands out, as it includes sections on history and archaeology, as well as an impressive art gallery. “**Ioan Sima**” **Art Galleries** are also remarkable, and they comprise mainly paintings, donated by master Ioan Sima. In Şimleu Silvaniei one finds the **Northern Transylvania Holocaust Memorial Museum**, which was designed by the Jewish community within the town synagogue, a building which is a historical monument itself and has been partly restored. A smaller-sized ethnographic museum, named “**Ligia Bodea**” **Museum of Folk Art**, has been established in the village of Iaz (Plopiş commune), comprising three traditional peasant houses, as well as items collected from the local inhabitants. Smaller-sized school museums function in Meseşenii de Sus, Gâlgău, Agrij, Ciumărna, Şimleu Silvaniei, Buciumi. There is also a worthy proposal to establish a Natural History Museum within Jibou Botanical Garden.

Memorial houses are strictly connected to the personalities born in the county. Among these, one remarks **“Iuliu Maniu” Memorial House** in Bădăcin (Pericei), which was once in a state of degradation, but has been partly restored. Another memorial house dedicated to Iuliu Maniu exists in Șimleu Silvaniei, where the politician lived for a while, but it would need urgent repairs to become a tourist attraction once again. In Bobota, the **Cultural Complex Șincai-Coposu** has been established, in memory of the two distinguished people born there, Gheorghe Șincai and Corneliu Coposu. One should also mention **Ady Endre Memorial House** in Zalău and **“Simion Bărnuțiu” Cultural Centre** in Bocșa.

In the city of Zalău, there are many buildings of historical interest, such as the Town Hall, “Silvania” National College, the “Transylvania” building, “I.S. Bădescu” County Library, the barracks (now the County Centre for Culture and Art), “Simion Bărnuțiu” School, as well as the Orthodox Church (“The Dormition of the Theotokos”), the Roman-Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, and the Orthodox Cathedral of “The Holy Friday”.

Among the monuments and statues, one remarks the monument dedicated to Michael the Brave, on the hill near Guruslău, which reminds of its victory there in 1601. The event is celebrated each year in August, when a folk party is organized, including songs and dances. The monuments in Ip and Treznea, raised in memory of the victims of Horthy’s regime in World War II, are also visited.

The Centre for Culture and Art of Sălaj County organizes annually a series of events, such as: the National Culture Day, the National Day of the Union of the Principalities, “Farsang” (Hungarian cultural event), “Mărțișor” traditional fair, the Hungarians’ Day, the “Măsuriș” in Pria (traditional celebration in the village of Pria), the Collectors’ Fair, “Viva la Musica” National Interpretation Contest, “Transylvanian Echoes” Chorus Festival, “Sălaj Proud Song” Contest – Festival, Sălaj Minorities Festival, the National Festival of Codru Area Song and Dance, “Icon on My Soul” glass painting camp, the international folk festivals “At the Fountain of Longing”, “Someș, your songs”, “Meseș Echoes”, “Tovishat” culture days, the Grape Feast, “Muza Fest” Art Festival, “Padiș” National Theatre Contest, The Days of the City and Porolissum Roman Festival – Zalău (mainly organized by Zalău City Hall), Porolissum Fest, “Cinelatino” Film Festival, Sălaj Velo Tour, the mountain-bike marathon.

Many of these events attract a high number of participants.

The vineyard tradition in the county has a special importance, as it is able to attract interested tourists. The intangible heritage also comprises local customs and traditions, as well as traditional activities and manners of living which may be an attraction themselves for those who wish to relax, far from the urban environment.

Therefore, the analysed area has enough arguments to be integrated in the regional and national tourism flows, but also to become involved in the international (global and European) tourism and to attract tourists from the neighbouring countries (especially Hungary) as well as from the whole world.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In a similar manner to our previous paper (Rusu *et al*, 2020), one may conclude that Sălaj County has a wide range of anthropogenic attractions, such as castles, fortresses, wooden and stone churches, monasteries, interesting archaeological sites, museums, a well-known botanical garden, and many events. Nevertheless, this potential is far from being capitalized in terms of tourism. Except for Porolissum archaeological site and Jibou Botanical Garden, many of these attractions are virtually unknown even in Romania, and they are mostly visited by locals and, in the case of churches and monasteries, by pilgrims. Urban and business tourism is not so developed because the towns are rather small, and even Zalău (the largest town) has few attractions compared to other cities in north-western Romania. Rural tourism is also underdeveloped due to competition from other more famous regions, not far away, such as Maramureș. Therefore, there is need for a better overall image of Sălaj County as a tourist destination, by setting up of a county strategy in that regard.

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