

PREMISES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ON THE BISTRIȚA AURIE VALLEY

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Key words: rural tourism development, Bistrița Aurie Valley.

Abstract. The Romanian rural space includes old boroughs that lost their function and importance and in many cases, the number of their inhabitants decreased too. In this period, many of them obtained the status of town. In the context of the development of bathing tourism, from the end of the 19th century until the Second World War, many of these places were bathing, climatic or bathing-climatic resorts. In the situation of the European economic integration, the sustainable rural development of these areas can be supported by tourism development. On the Bistrița Aurie Valley, a traditional area, rural tourism could be reinforced by rebuilding the bathing capacity of Iacobeni, by reacquiring the status of bathing-climatic resort and by intensifying the tourist activity in Ciocănești. For the whole region, given the fact that the mining activity stopped, tourism could be an option for future development.

Introduction

The Romanian rural space includes old boroughs that lost their function and importance and in many cases, the number of their inhabitants decreased too.

In this period, many of them obtained the status of town. In the context of the unprecedented development of bathing tourism, from the end of the 19th century until the Second World War, in areas with bathing-climatic potential, many of these places were bathing, climatic or bathing-climatic resorts. In the context of the European economic integration, the durable rural development of these areas can be supported by tourism development.

On the Bistrița Aurie Valley, a traditional area for the rural tourism could be reinforced by rebuilding the bathing capacity of Iacobeni. The author was the director of a project financed by Suceava County Council and Iacobeni Town hall, supporting the obtaining of the bathing-climatic resort status along with the steps taken in order to acquire the status of town, by reacquiring the status of bathing-climatic resort and by intensifying the tourist activity. The division of Iacobeni Township in two townships, Iacobeni and Ciocănești, in 2002, the lack of funds for bathing and tourism development that were coming only from the local authorities,

as well as the lack of interest at a central level, postponed, as in 1983 and 1996, this decision.

1. General presentation

1.1. General information

The lower Bistrița Aurie Valley is limited by Iacobeni and Ciocănești villages. The region is known due of the extraction and exploitation of manganese ore, but also thanks to its tourist and bathing-climatic potential, even though it has not been used lately. Publications that refer to this area signal its bathing-climatic potential.

Pricăjan in his *Mineral and thermal waters in Romania* (1972), P. Decei mentions the existence of the “bathing resort with sulfurous waters recommended for rheumatism and furunculosis” (1977); in the *Medical Encyclopedic Dictionary of balneoclimatology*” (Berlescu, 1982), Iacobeni is presented as a village with bathing factors; P. Țăranu, in his book “Dornas’ memory”, recomposed the bathing activity in Iacobeni; Ghinea D. in the *Romania’s Geographical Encyclopedia* (2000) presents Iacobeni village and mentions its bathing potential. If many of the above presented are no more as they were described in these works or how they are remembered by those who knew Iacobeni in the period when its bathing activity was considerable, this is not an obstacle, but a challenge for the reintroduction of this area, with a noteworthy potential, in the tourist and bathing-climatic circuit.

1.2. Natural environment

Iacobeni and Ciocănești have a total surface of 17750 ha, that overlap the crystalline-metamorphic area of the Eastern Carpathians, where metamorphic and isolated magmatic formations dominate. Dolomites and limestones have an insular presence west of Bistrița Aurie. The left slope of the Bistrița Aurie valley, where the manganese deposits are, belongs to Obcina Mestecănișului Mountains and to Giupalău Massif, between which, from the Mestecăniș Pass, the Puciosu Valley flows towards the Bistrița Aurie; close to its bed, downstream, there are the Iacobeni mineral springs. The seismic potential of the area is low.

Iacobeni is located on Bistrița Aurie, between 820 m in south and 935 m upstream Iacobeni, Ciocănești and Botoș and 1099 m in the Mestecăniș Pass. The areas of slopes and crests belong on the right side of Bistrița Aurie to the Suhard Mountains, with a maximum altitude of 1932 m in Omu Peak. On the left side, there is Obcina Mestecănișului, the highest and the most massive of the Bucovina’s ranges of mountains named Obcina: Mare, Feredeului and Mestecănișului. South of Mestecăniș Pass and Puciosu valley are the western hilltops of the Giupalău Massif.

The climate is a transition temperate one, with aridity influences; the

climatic area is that of the low and medium mountains, with altitudes of 800-1900 m. The dominant air circulation in the high areas is that specific to the temperate area, mainly western, with channeling from north-west on the Golden Bistrița Valley. Harsh winters are not a consequence of the Siberian Anticyclon invasion that only rarely passes beyond Mestecăniș Pass, but mainly of frequent, intense and long thermal inversions. Winters are long, with moderate thickness but persistent snow layers, while summers are chilly.

Underground waters are characterized by a scarce presence and high discontinuities, a characteristic of the entire mountain area. At the border area with sulfurous waters, to the east and of that with sparkling waters in the south, of the mofettic aureole, at Puciosu, there are two sulfurous springs with discharge rates of 0.45 l/s and 0.2 l/s, with remarkable therapeutic qualities. At Diaca occurs a "borcut", a spring with carbon and ferruginous water, with a 0.1 l/s discharge. The surface hydrographic network is almost exclusively tributary to Bistrița Aurie, which, at Dorna Giurnalău, has an average annual discharge of 11.6 m³/s (Ujvari, 1972).

Spruce forests dominate up to 1550m altitude, and then the subalpine vegetation appears insularly. From the fauna viewpoint, the area contains the biotope of the mountain forest. On altitude levels, in the subalpine level the terrestrial fauna is mainly represented by birds and the forest fauna includes brown bears, deer, lynx, marten, wolfs, foxes, boars and squirrels. Bird fauna is very well represented. In Bistrița Aurie and in its main tributaries live trout, grayling, minnow, miller's thumb, barbel, gudgeon and huck, that can now be encountered only in a few rivers of the country.

Regarding the soil cover, Cambisols dominate, in the high areas occurring on small surfaces Spodisols.

1.3. Human geography

The settlements of the Golden Bistrita lower valley belonged to the old Campulung Ocol, as the neighboring areas, being an interference point. For Bistrița Aurie Valley, Iacobeni, as a small borough, had in the past important industrial functions for the entire Bucovina and of service for the immediate rural zones; the latter is presently in process of being consolidated as a center of local polarization.

This area has been populated for a very long time. The 144 years of Austrian occupation produced mutations at the ethnic and religious level. The map made by I. Nistor, based on the 1900 census, indicates for Iacobeni a percentage of about 80% German ethnics. For the current territory of the two townships, population grew vertiginously, as a consequence of the immigration gain, from about 90 inhabitants in 1773; at 145 in 1774; 673 in 1776; at 719 in 1779; at 931 in 1780; at 2505 in 1784, 3135 in 1805; 4390 in 1910 and 4909 in 1930.

The repatriation of the German population caused the population in 1941 to decrease to 2345 inhabitants. The continuation of mining and industrial activities attracted new population, and in 1956 the villages' population reached 4944 inhabitants. It kept growing until the middle of the eighth decade of the last century and then decreased lightly (4862 in 1966; 5309 in 1977; 4642 in 1985; 4498 in 1990; 4284 in 1992 and 4332 in 2000), with 2394 of the inhabitants living in Iacobeni. The population density on the villages' territory is of 36 inhabitants on sqkm. The age group structure was, according to the 1992 census, the following: 970 persons aged between 0 and 14 years; 3058 aged 14 to 64 and 304 over 64 years old. The gender structure is of 2196 female and 2136 male persons. The natural population gain became negative. After 1990, there is a returning movement, the migratory balance becoming positive. In 1992, the percentage of the population occupied in non-agricultural branches was of 79%, an almost unique situation in the rural area of Bucovina. The percentage of the labor resources from the total population was, at the end of 2000, of 60%, of which 31% working in agriculture and forestry, 15% in industry and constructions, 7% in mining and 7% in services. Commutation registers higher values for those who come daily at work in Iacobeni than for those who live in Iacobeni and work outside. The real unemployment rate is rather high. The work force qualification is as follows: 4% university degree, 70% high school degree and 26% junior high school. The number of persons affected by silicosis registered by the Iacobeni surgery was of 60. Part of them could be the beneficiaries of the bathing-climatic treatment in Iacobeni, when the treatment facility will be operational.

The total number of apartments in blocks is of 234. In the two villages there are 1574 dwellings with house room of 51792 sqm. The drinking water network in Iacobeni supplies blocks of flats, institutions, economic units and over 200 dwellings. The length of the residual waters disposal network of the village is of 1.5 km, a collective network that services 206 houses and 13 units, 656 persons benefiting from it. The power distribution network services in practice all the habitations. On the village's territory there is an electric power station with 4 Diesel engines and a hydraulic turbine operated by Bistrița Aurie's waters. The power network has a total length of 49.8 km and 1374 customers are connected. The disposal of solid residues is made for the blocks of apartments by collecting garbage in bins, which are present also near public institutions, schools and in the industrial area. For the remaining of the population, garbage collecting is private, and when they have larger quantities, they dispose of by burning them or by carrying them to the Nepomiceni garbage dump.

Mining on Bistrița Aurie Valley has a long history and there are documents attesting it from the first part of the 17th century, that refer to gold diggers of sands present along the rivers, mainly the Golden Bistrița. The traces of this activity, like

piles and holes, can be still found today along the Golden Bistrița bed. These activities were also mentioned by D. Cantemir in 1723. Mountain rivers had “haite” (water accumulations) for rafting, a basic occupation in the region, traces of these settlements being present everywhere, even in the names of these places. Iron was exploited in a furnace at Iacobeni, which functioned until 1870 (Turcu, 1990). It is one of the first modern industrial units that appeared in Moldavia. Besides the manganese exploitation, the industrial profile of the village was completed with lime pits, a kiln (furnace) for lime, a department for mining equipment repairs, a timber factory, saw mills, corn mills, a small hydroelectric plant, an electric plant with liquid fuel. The mining activity and the manganese ore exploitation suffered, after 1989, great changes of the production volume and structure, as production and the types of products were reduced. The national production of manganese is obtained, almost entirely of the territory of the two villages. The 71% that forest occupies of the two villages’ territory offer a first indication on the importance of this resource in local economy. Shepherding was always an intense activity in this village, due to the large pastures. The agricultural surface per head has a value of 0.9 ha and the surface of meadows divided by the number of persons that activate in agriculture was of 2.1 ha.



Fig.1 - The area of the Iacobeni and Ciocănești townships

One of the highest peaks of Suhard Mountain, of more than 1700 m is called Șvețaria. V. Tufescu (1974) divided the median band of the Oriental Carpathians central group, contained between the Mestecăniș Pass and the superior Troțuș River, which include the mountains Giumalău, Rarău, Bistriței, Ceahlău, Giurgeu and Hășmaș, under the name of “the high mountains in the west”, belonging to the Moldavia’s Mountains subunit ...*this area is of a remarkable picturesque; it could be called the Moldavia’s Switzerland, with sceneries renowned for their beauty.*

The social and cultural endowments of the village have a good standard. Services and trade have, because of the low income in the area, still a modest weight. The improvement of the bathing-climatic and tourist potential could intensify these activities, as it happened between the two world wars. However, we must not forget that even then, the main source of welfare in the area was industry and mining.

The agricultural surface occupies 4492 ha of the 17751 ha of the two villages. The structure of the agricultural surface is the following: arable land 268 ha, pastures 2492 ha, meadows 1732 ha, forests and other surfaces with forest vegetation occupy 9564 ha; aquatic surfaces 65 ha, other utilities 65 ha and the intravillan area surface 660 ha. Due to its position in a mountain area, where forests and meadows occupy the majority of the territory, the environment of Ciocănești and Iacobeni villages is conventionally “clean”. Some issues already belong in the past and others diminished considerably.

2. Bathing-climatic function

2.1. Short history of the Iacobeni Baths

The bathing activity of Iacobeni was many times complementary to the bathing activity of the Dorna Depression.

When mining and industrial activities began again in Iacobeni, the Romanian Orthodox Ecclesiastic Fund, which had bought these properties, took over also 12 mineral water springs, with the commitment to continue the bathing activity. “Puciosu” resort began to take form in the 19th century, when going to treatment, to “baths” or “villeggiatura” during summer had already become a frequent practice of rich people, but also of what we call today “middle class” or even of the more modest city dwellers. In 1905, the first hotel with a higher capacity was built. Iacobeni baths became after the 1927 improvements, made by the Romanian Orthodox Ecclesiastic Fund, a state fund, a known bathing-climatic resort, of local and regional interest, with well determined specific. The treatment pavilion that was opened in 1927 at Puciosu had a treatment capacity of 60 persons. Compared to that, the 88 places for which it will be able to ensure treatment, lodging and food (when the works at the 2nd pavilion will be over), constitutes a realistic capacity for the moment. The Iacobeni resort had as accommodation some hotels, an inn, villas

- some of these still exist, but they need major repairs (those with a resistance structure in good conditions), repairs that would try to recreate the old exterior aspect. In summer, during the high season, these lodging capacities proved to be insufficient and many of those who came in “villeggiatura” used the peasants’ houses as accommodation, in Puciosu, Iacobeni or even Ciocănești, with full board or only for lodging. Wealthy people went to the baths or rode in one of the numerous carriages of the village, those with less possibilities rode in carts and others by foot. Local people had got used to the big affluence of tourists and patients (called by the locals “borcutari”), some of them arrived even from abroad, during summer. In that period, services for tourists became, for many locals, a significant income source. So, agro-tourism is not something new in the area. There were some recreation possibilities, fashionable in that period: carriage rides to Mestecăniș or Vatra Dornei, walks on the parks alleys (of Puciosu or of the Mining Administration), raft rides to Vatra Dornei; in the evening, the “Vercu’s Music” orchestra and the mines band played; at Puciosu, there was a “music kiosk”, at the “Mine House” there was a bowling; tourists made trips to the Oușorul Peak, on the entire crest of the Suhard, on Giupalau Mountain and even to Rarău. At Haju, in the inn area, there were two parks, one in the forest, above the road and another in the valley, next to Bistrița Aurie; on the riverbank there were showers, cabins and places for sunbathing. People who came in this resort had the possibility to go to church, according to their own confession: Orthodox, Lutheran, Catholic or Mosaic.

P. Țăranu in his “Dornas Memory” (1999) reconstituted the activities of the Iacobeni bathing-climatic resort: “The water necessary for the baths came of the two lightly sulfurous springs, both captured through modern methods. Water was directed to the bath tubs through an adduction system, ingeniously created. The sulfurous water treatment of Iacobeni was recommended against various illnesses: *rheumatism (articular and muscular, sub acute and chronic), arterism, gout, chronic eczema, furunculosis, acne, urticaria, itchiness, scrofula, syphilis (tertiary and hereditary), motive and sensible neurosis, tabes, posttraumatic condition and sciatica*. In Iacobeni they also used the arnica baths (*Arnica montana*). Prepared according to ancient Dorna recipes, arnica baths were applied with a lot of success in the fight against rickets, scrofula, lymphatism, debility and anemia in children. Information and guiding services for the interested public were promptly offered by the Iacobeni Treatment and Tourism Office. Throughout all its existence, the resort functioned only in summer, is from 1st of June till 30th of September. The resort activity declined during the war and part of the movable and fixed assets were stolen or destroyed. After the Second World War, patients were registered in the Iacobeni bathing-climatic resort only sporadically. Since 11th of June 1948, Iacobeni baths, even if they were valuable from a therapeutic point of view, closed

their gates. That day, all the movable assets, the lands, the inventory that still existed were taken by the State. After the baths closure, the Iacobeni climatic and hydro-mineral potential was included in the Reserve bathing Fund.

2.2. The bathing potential and the bathing base

The appearance of these mineral waters is somehow atypical for the crystalline area. Iacobeni village is on a border zone. It is north of the sedimentary deposited in the Dorna Depression, where, in the mofettic aureole, sparkling waters predominate, and west of the flysch zone and of the Subcarpathians area, where sulfurous waters are a characteristic. There is also a mineral water spring, “borcut” type, at Diaca, with a 0,1 l/s flow. Ceangă (1998) mapped for the Iacobeni area, three categories of mineral waters: sulfurous oligomineral, arsenical, ferruginous with carbon dioxide. The use for bathing purposes of these resources, of the turf mud from the Botos turf moor (on the village territory), as well as of the herb baths, with herbs collected in the area, especially arnica, attracted a large number of patients to Iacobeni.

The analyses of the Puciosu (Iacobeni) mineral water springs were performed by the PHYSICAL MEDICINE BATHING-CLIMATOLOGY AND MEDICAL RECOVERY INSTITUTE of Bucharest in may 2000. The conclusions of the analyses are the following:

- The higher spring has a 0.45 l/s flow, water is mineral, sulfurous, oligomineral, hypotonic, and it is therapeutically recommended for internal treatments in illnesses that need choleresis treatments and for illnesses that need diuresis treatments;

- The lower spring has a 0.2 l/s flow, water is oligomineral, naturally sulfurous hypotonic and it is therapeutically recommended for an external treatment, for the following illnesses: chronic degenerative rheumatism, articular rheumatism, chronic peripheral neurologic disorders and chronic gynecologic disorders (see analyses bulletins).

The mineral water of the two springs is transported through pipes to the treatment base of the Iacobeni village center.

2.3. Climatic-therapeutic potential

Climate therapy uses the climate action for prophylactic and curative purposes. Ciocănești and Iacobeni comunas' territory is comprised in the tonic-stimulant bioclimate. The mountain climate induces a stress on the human body, instantaneously triggering adapting processes.

Prophylaxis – The type of mountain climate of the Ciocănești and Iacobeni villages (we refer especially to the low, residential area of the villages) is recommended for physical and intellectual tiredness; convalescence periods, after

illnesses that needed a prolonged rest (with the condition of sufficient cardio-respiratory reserves); functional disorders with a neural-vegetative character in the pubertal or climatic period, on a hyperactive nervous background; growth disorders in children; activity in an environment with respiratory harmful substances; activity in an environment with ionizing radiations, high frequency electromagnetic waves (Berlescu, 1982).

Curative treatment. Mountain climate is recommended for post hemorrhagic states, hypochromic, sideropenic anemias, allergic asthma, chronic trachea bronchitis, asthenic neurosis (hyper reactive forms), benign hyper thyroiditis and Basedow disease in incipient stages; rickets (Berlescu, 1982).

By its profile, the Iaconeni resort will not develop in concurrence with Vatra Dornei resort, whose mineral waters have a different chemical composition and that are recommended for other disorders, but complementary to it, as it functioned also in the past. Groups of resorts usually do not develop in concurrence and the existence of some groups increases the attractiveness of those areas (see Valea Oltului, Valea Prahovei, Litoralul, Braşov area, Malnaş-Tuşnad-Balványos mofettic area, Zizin-Covasna etc).

3. Tourist function

3.1. Tourist function

Tourist fund of Ciocăneşti and Iacobeni is significant. Besides the natural environment of a remarkable picturesque, one can notice the climate-therapeutic valences and especially the bathing ones, as well as the mountain tourism. The anthropic fund is constituted by the popular architecture, old constructions with a specific architecture, of a remarkable picturesque, and the ethnographic and folkloric fund characteristic to the Bucovina mountain area. Emmanuel de Martonne, the great French geographer, a constant friend of our country, called the Bucovina mountains “les Alpes de Bucovine” (1922).

Thermal comfort index (present only during the days with daily average temperatures between 16.8-20.6° C) indicates in the low area of the valley, a yearly average, 5-10 days with thermal comfort.

Bioclimatic stress, an indicator that establishes the therapeutic characteristics of bathing-climatic resorts, has, in the low area of the valley, a value of 43.

Climate-tourist index, established according to the sunshine duration and the precipitations duration during daytime, is of 20, indicating an average favorability.

Climate-tourist index is the most favorable in August, when its value reaches 58 (Ceangă, 1998).

Between the two world wars, people that came to baths, at Iacobeni, could do raft trips to Vatra Dornei and even to the “Toance” (Bistriţa’s Falls), on one of the most beautiful rivers in Romania, “the Moldavian waters jewel”, according to

the great geographer and intellectual Simion Mehedinți (Decei, 1977). At Haju (near the inn), the Bistrița Aurie bank had a lawn, benches, gazebos, showers and cabins, in the center of a beautiful park; tourists could take “cold baths”, could fish or could relax. In the Bistrița Aurie waters and of its tributaries one can fish trout, grayling and minnow and huck, a protected fish, can also be found, a fish that is still present only in a few rivers in Romania.

Meadows have numerous medicinal herbs that are gathered for infusions: “bear’s beard”, amber, arnica, anise, mayweed etc. Near to the Botoș village, on the right bank of the Golden Bistrița, on the 2-4 m terrace, downstream of Humor creek, there is a turf moor, with specific vegetation, from where, in the period between the two world wars, turf was exploited for bathing purposes.

Austrians opened in 1782 the Iacobeni mines. Since 1783 they brought there the first German miners of the Zips county in Slovakia (a population called in our country “țipțer”). In 1796 the mining lands and the “iron factory” of Iacobeni were bought by Anton Manz von Mariensee who built 280 houses for the miners (200 of those houses still exist), modernized the metallurgic company, built a school where today is the high school and the evangelic church. The mines headquarters was built in 1823. After 1828, Vincenz Manz built a catholic church in Iacobeni, the German House and the Romanian House. In Ciocănești, the orthodox wooden church was built, a historic monument today. All these properties were bought in 1869 by the Ecclesiastic Fund. Between 1907-1913, the Orthodox Church was built in the style of the churches built by K. A. Romstofer. The religious fund makes again of Iacobeni an important center, by opening the sulfurous water bathing-climatic resort. In this context, the services sector develops. Numerous villas and pavilions appear, built by the Bucovina Ecclesiastic Religious Fund. In that occasion the Haju Inn was also rebuilt, in 1897, with lodging, carriages for transportation to baths, a dining hall. In 1905, a hotel is built that today is the town hall, as well as a synagogue, which was destroyed during the war. The maximum heyday of the resort was in the interwar period. The resort will cease its activity after the Second World War, when the springs passed in the reserve fund. The main cultural and historical objectives are nominated in the architectonic monuments list, proposed for approval by the Suceava County Directorate for Culture, Cults and National Cultural Patrimony, following field research and documentation that have been done by its specialists, in the period of making of this study.

3.2. Material culture and spirituality

Spiritual life of the inhabitants of Ciocănești and Iacobeni villages took place in a community with different nationalities and religions that cohabited. “The four sanctuaries, in the presented structure, satisfied all confession tourists’ needs and

also those of the local population” (Țăranu, 1999).

The area preserves rich and unaltered ethnographic and folkloric funds and testimonies about the ancient occupations of the inhabitants, about traditions and folk customs, songs and dances, the art of the popular clothing and other artistic crafts.

Old Romanian traditional houses, specific to Bucovina mountain area, like the Nichituș house, at the Iacobeni exit towards Argestru, still exist. Old buildings of Iacobeni, of the evangelic church area, Ciotina, the main street or the Iron Valley have architectonic aspects from the origin of the colonists. “Houses in this area are individualized by the exterior painting; some settlements of the Bistrița Valley, especially Ciocanesti village, excel from this point of view. The polychrome bands, sometimes in white, black and red, with geometric patterns, vertically, on the houses corners, or horizontally, above the windows, under the roof, create a line and color lines of an unostentatious optimism; the patterns and the colors of the decoration remember, in a certain manner, of the Bucovina traditional carpets’ ornamentation” (Maria Olenici).

3.3. The material base for tourism

The project for the children and youth camp of the Mestecanis Pass is already approved; the camp will also have a ski slope with tele-ski and a recreation area. Public alimentation is ensured by a classic restaurant in Iacobeni, a beerhouse and a boarding house restaurant and more then 10 bars, many of them with a summer garden. Iacobeni is on the National Road 17 that goes from Suceava to Dej (E 571), at 96 km of Suceava and 15 km of Vatra Dornei. Iacobeni is favoured from the point of view of the railway transportation, as there are two train stations, Iacobeni and Mestecăniș, where all types of passenger trains stop. At present, there is only one ski slope equipped, but without cable transportation. In February, Iacobeni organizes the “Suhard Cup” for ski, a local competition. At Ciocănești there are the “Snow Festival”, “The Hand Painted Eggs Festival” and the “Trout Festival”. In this region, there two hunting funds, one managed by the Iacobeni Forest Administration and the other by the Hunters and Fishermen Association.

Conclusions

Following a complex research, a few recommendations could be made regarding the actions to be taken for short and medium term, as well as a few conclusions.

For a short term (1 to 3 years) we recommend to prospect the sulfurous mineral waters deposits in the Puciosu area as well as the sources of sparkling and ferruginous waters on the village’s territory, like the Diaca “borcut” spring; as in the interwar period the mineral waters for internal and external treatment of

Iacobeni were also used for their radioactive qualities, their weak radioactivity being mentioned in the bibliography too and being also specific to some neighboring area, it is recommended that the mineral water radioactivity should be determined by the PHYSICAL MEDICINE BATHING-CLIMATOLOGY AND MEDICAL RECOVERY INSTITUTE of Bucharest for the purpose of using this parameter, too. In order to recreate the traditional characteristics of the resort, the Botoș turf deposit should be prospected, the turf mud analyzed and a licence should be required in order to use it in balneology, a treatment that was applied in the interwar period. The herbs baths applied in the old resort, especially arnica baths, could be reinitiated after consulting the specialized physicians. In the first stage, the resort nucleus, specialized in bathing treatments, should be extended in the center of Iacobeni village, and a new unit, in a neighboring block of flats, could be added to the treatment, lodging and alimentation base that is already present. There is an initiative for the creation of an “International Treatment Center for immune deficiency disorders”. It is necessary to readjust the tourist tracks and the tourist marks of the village territory (Suhard, Giumalău, Obcina Mestecănișului); it is necessary to create a park in the middle of Iacobeni village. The town hall already has the land, near to the National Romanian House, a land that is at the forest border. Equipments for winter sports should be modernized. It is recommended that serious and professional actions are taken in order to promote tourism in this area.

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