

THE IMPACT OF THE DEINDUSTRIALIZATION PROCESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST ACTIVITIES AT THE LEVEL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORȘOVA

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Abstract

After 1990, rapid deindustrialization generated economic difficulties and a negative demographic evolution that was more strongly felt at the level of small towns in Romania. The purpose of the work is to analyze the effects generated by the deindustrialization process at the level of the municipality of Orșova in demographic and economic terms. Special attention was paid to the impact generated on the development of tourism as a result of the fact that Orșova presents an extraordinary tourist potential. In order to highlight these changes, the analysis was focused on establishing the importance and implications of the population structure (in this case the share of the young and adult population) and economic activities (especially tourism) on the local economy. The authors used a series of indicators (economic, demographic and tourist), based on which they tried to determine the degree of adaptability of the locality to the changes that occurred in the context of deindustrialization, as well as the impact produced on tourist activities.

Key words: deindustrialization, workforce, tourism potential, transit tourism, wetland tourism, the Danube Gorge

1. Introduction

1.1. Post-socialist deindustrialization

The fall of the Communist regime marked drastic changes in the economies of the European countries of the former communist bloc marked by the replacement of the centralized system with the free market system that generated new trends in the development of cities. At the

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same time, the socio-economic transformations associated with this phenomenon had an impact on two main areas: industry (through deindustrialization and restructuring) and agriculture (through de-collectivization, privatization and re-ownership) (Grigorescu et al., 2021: 3).

The deindustrialization of urban regions represents a complex process in the context of territorial development and planning as a result of the fact that it is under the influence of global economic and political processes and phenomena (Cercleux et al., 2015; Simeonova, Milkova, 2018).

Deindustrialization (a phenomenon that appeared after the middle of the 20th century) affected the former socialist European countries with a time lag compared to the countries of Western Europe, which unfolded differently in each country, depending on their historical and national particularities (Simeonova, Milkova 2018: 37). In general, small and medium-sized cities were the most affected by the various phenomena and processes that appeared (Bănică, Istrate, 2012, Cercleux et al., 2018, Cercleux et al., 2019; Zamfir et al., 2019), as well as reforms territories that cause long-term effects within them (Cercleux et al., 2018; Simion, 2016). Such effects are represented by the aging and decrease of the working population (Cercleux et al., 2018; Dumitrache et al., 2016; Merciu et al., 2018; Simeonova, Milkova, 2018; Simion, 2016; Zamfir et al., 2019) and the development of the tertiary sector (Cercleux et al., 2015, Grigorescu et al., 2021, Popescu, 2014).

In this context, the effects of deindustrialization in post-socialist countries refer in particular to changes in the structure of the economy, often accompanied by a change in the professional career and reorientation of employees. On the other hand, in these areas, where the strong element was represented by industry, the economic activities in the sphere of the tertiary sector registered an accelerated dynamic (Cazacu, 2020; Cercleux et al., 2015; Grigorescu et al., 2021; Mocanu, 2020). In the process of deindustrialization, there were two phases: the phase of decreasing production and closing factories, and the phase of transforming a large industrial area, at that time, into disused industrial areas (Simeonova, Milkova, 2018: 39).

The severity and persistence of these processes called into question both the future of the respective cities and their capacity for adaptability (Fernández Águeda, 2014: 3). The greatest damage caused by deindustrialization was felt at the level of the population employed in industry, especially the middle-aged population, between 30 and 55 years old. At the same time, there were also effects on the economic structures (at the level of which there was a disintegration) (Koritz, 1991), and the respective cities suffered the numerical reduction of the population, the breakdown of traditional industries (Popescu, 2014: 183), emigration and suburbanization (Dumitrache et al., 2016; Zamfir, et al., 2019).

The paper analyzes the subsequent effects of local deindustrialization, expressed by decreases in the number of inhabitants, the reduction of jobs and at the same time an amplified external migration. The method by which an economic recovery is attempted is also considered, including both the modernization of industrial branches and their development based on current requirements, but also the development of tourism activities (due to the existing tourism potential).

1.2. The impact of industrial restructuring on local development

Mehedinți County, heavily industrialized during the socialist period, was affected after 1990 by the process of deindustrialization. The large urban centers of Mehedinți were forced to reorient themselves, with negative effects both on the salaried population and on the level of the entire economic activity, many of the remaining commercial companies being forced to orient themselves towards functional conversions.

After 1990, the industrial activities (processing, extraction, etc.) of the Municipality of Orșova suffered decreases in the number of employees, decreases caused on the one hand by the closure of some industrial sectors, and on the other hand by the modernization of the existing ones (the replacement of the of work with modernized equipment). If in 1990 the share of industrial activities was 25%, it reached 12% in 2015, with a slight increase in values until 2021 (19%) (INS). The chemical

industry focused on oil refining and the shipyard were the most important existing industrial activities, generating labor for the locals.

Large employing units in the locality have closed or restricted their activity, having a negative impact on the active population (20% reduction in jobs). Currently, economic activities are based on shipyard activities, hydroelectric plant activities, port activities, tourism, agriculture, etc. The Orșova shipyard was established in 1860, its purpose being the repair of ships participating in the construction of the navigable canal from the Iron Gates - SIP Yugoslavia (Monograph of Mehedinți County, 2011). After 1990, the construction site registered a constant development, a period when both the form of organization and the name changed. Currently, it is a 100% private, joint-stock company. As for the field of activity, initially it only dealt with the repair of ships, until now 90% of the workload is focused on the execution of the hulls of river vessels (for general cargo), container ships, tankers and technical vessels. The company focused on starting the construction of ships for export, modernizing the work technology.

In addition to the construction and repair of ships, the most representative economic activities in the Municipality of Orșova are trade and tourism. The commercial network of the city is in a continuous modernization, it is addressed especially to the population and is divided into the food (75%) and non-food (25%) sectors.

As a tourist destination, Orșova represents a locality with an economic, social and cultural potential that influences to a certain extent (smaller or larger) the tourist activity (Mazilu, Mitroi, 2014: 86). In terms of tourist services, a dynamic is observed generated by the construction of new types of accommodation units, the elaboration of the development strategy of the locality for the time horizon 2021-2027, focused on the promotion of tourism, the development of public catering structures, etc.). The dynamics of reception structures is greatly influenced by the upward evolution of tourist traffic (Turcu, Weisz, 2008).

The purpose of the study is to highlight the role of these factors in the development of the locality, carrying out an analysis of the city's profile from the perspective of existing tourist activities, highlighting the role that these activities determine or could determine in future economic development.

2. Description of the case study

The position of the Municipality of Orșova, together with the elements of the natural environment, relief, climate and demographic evolution, are important factors in economic development, especially since the presence of tourist potential attracts a significant number of tourists who generate income for the local population.

In recent years, the municipality of Orșova has registered a dynamic in social and economic development, different from that existing in other urban spaces, on the one hand due to its geographical position (the location of Orșova in the Danube Gorge) (Fig. 1), on the other hand due to the existing tourist potential. The geographical position, along with the natural setting, constituted, over time, an opportunity for the emergence and development of the human settlement of today. The studies carried out at the level of the area, have positioned the city *"in a natural amphitheater at the confluence of the Cerna river with the Danube river, in one of the most beautiful depressions of the Porțile de Fier (Iron Gates) Gorge, on the site of the ancient Dierna fortress"* (Oglindoiu et al., 2018 : 9).

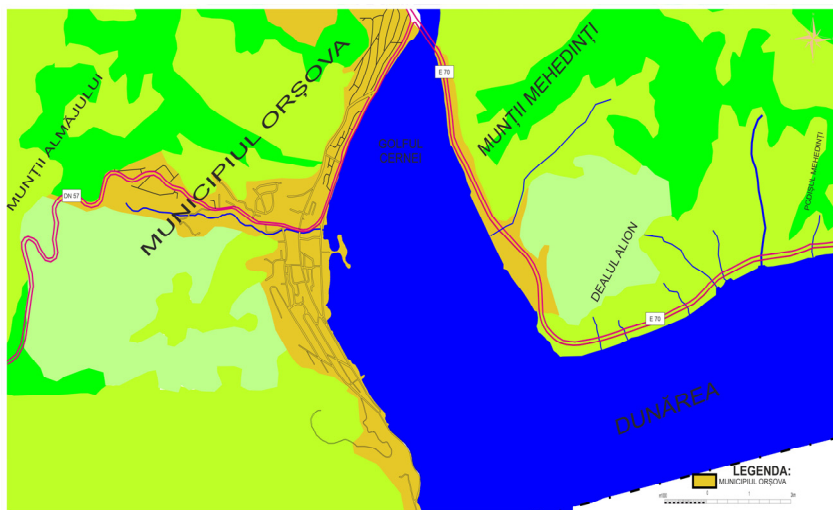


Fig. 1. Geographical location of Orșova Municipality

Source: authors

The degree of humanization of the territory was influenced by a number of factors, such as:

⊙ *Natural factors* (geographic location in the temperate zone - 44°43'24"N latitude and 22°24'16"E longitude, the relief of the depression is made up of low terraces and summits with altitudes generally between 150 m and 300 m, the mild climate with sub-Mediterranean influences, fertile soils, the presence of permanent water resources – Danube, Cerna, forest vegetation and fauna, hydrography, soils, natural resources);

⊙ *Historical factors* (age of residence and continuity of residence);

⊙ *Political factors* (political subordination - foreign occupation);

⊙ *Economic factors* (benefits from an economic point of view, from the perspective of the development and diversification of economic activities by increasing earnings at the city level, creating new jobs, developing infrastructure, etc.).

Regarding the tourist potential, the Municipality of Orșova belongs to the category of cities with a high tourist potential, with an above average score (13 points out of the total of 25 points allocated to the existing tourist potential (Boengiu, 2012). The analysis of natural and anthropic resources highlights a high rating among certain categories of tourists interested in sports tourism, religious tourism, cultural-historical tourism, ecotourism (Boengiu, 2012: 234), to which we add wetland tourism (Ciobotaru, et al., 2017), cruise tourism, scientific tourism (Marinescu, 2014).

Wetland tourism is one of the forms of tourism that can individualize Orșova, through its special tourist potential. Although at the level of Romania these areas occupy only 2% (of the total protected areas), the researches place the Orșova municipality on the 8th place in a top 10 urban localities listed in the ranking of the most famous wetlands in Romania (Slina, Mangalia, Tulcea, etc.) (Ciobotaru et al., 2017: 74).

3. Methodology

The elaboration of the study is based on a theoretical stage and a practical stage, and the reference period is 1990-2021. The theoretical analysis or the theoretical-scientific support of the research is based on works and fundamental studies that refer to the area under analysis,

especially on the effects of deindustrialization, in demographic and economic terms.

As for the practical analysis, it materialized through the processing of statistical data, the results being presented in the form of maps and graphs, based on the calculation of economic indicators (such as the workforce, the number of unemployed, the number of employees in tourism, etc.), demographic indicators (number of inhabitants, population structure by groups and sexes, etc.), tourist indicators (number of accommodation units, number of places in accommodation units, etc.). The data used come from the County Directorate of Statistics of Mehedinți County, as well as from the National Institute of Statistics.

4. Results and discussions

The study focuses on the analysis of the effects of deindustrialization at the level of the city of Orșova, which previously had a predominantly industrial function and for which it was necessary to reorient the economy and focus on capitalizing on existing resources to diversify the local economy.

4.1. Demographic dynamic

The year 1990 was the year in which a series of events began to take place both nationally and especially locally, events of a political nature (the change of the socialist regime to a liberal one), economic (the liberalization of commercial companies and the ownership of the population) and even demographic (changes among the population through decreases in the number of births, increase in the mortality rate, increase in external migration). These changes occurring at the level of the population of a city led to changes in the demographic structure of all cities, especially the medium and small ones (Stasac, 2016: 212) The analysis of the demographic indicators at the level of the Municipality of Orșova, highlights the role of these factors on the evolution of the locality.

1. ***The numerical evolution of the population*** recorded an increase in the number of inhabitants until 1990 when the maximum population of 15,878 inhabitants was recorded, followed by a continuously decreasing curve until now (Fig. 2). The cause of the decrease of these

values is the economic difficulties encountered, difficulties that have generated a decrease in the number of inhabitants. Economic restructuring is a process that appeared after 1990, which generated a tendency to reduce the population.

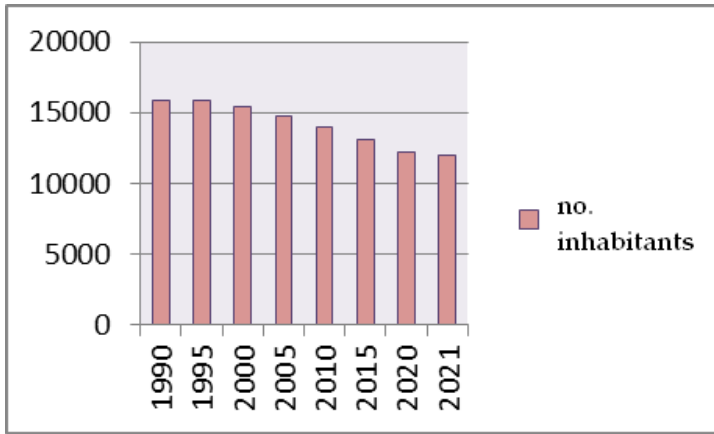


Fig. 2. Numerical evolution of the population of Orșova municipality
Source: INS data processing

Thus, in 2005 the population of Orșova registered 14,730 inhabitants, a decrease that has increased until now (12,030 inhabitants in 2021). This reduction in the number of inhabitants is due to the increase in mortality, migration and the decrease in the birth rate. The evolution of the number of inhabitants of the Municipality of Orșova has registered a decrease since the year 2000 (Braghină, 2000), determined by the economic crisis of the last 10 years. On the other hand, the decrease in population was influenced by the evolution of immigration and the increase in mortality.

2. ***Population dynamics*** is another important indicator in the demographic analysis of a locality and is the result of the associated action of phenomena related to natural and migratory movement. *The numerical evolution* of the population is given by the values of the natural increase, which in the case of Orșova Municipality is negative.

The natural balance of the population is directly influenced by a series of factors such as natural, economic, social, political or historical. The birth rate, which was increasing until 1990 when the values were the

highest at 11.46‰, reached the level of 7.41‰ in 2010, respectively at a value of 3.65‰ at the level of 2021. At the opposite pole, it was the value of the mortality rate index which increased continuously after 1990, from 9‰ at the level of 1990, to a value of 9.91‰ at the level of 2010, respectively 13.21‰ at the level of 2021. This indicator (natural balance) had a downward evolution of to 2.46‰ in 1990 to -2.28‰ in 1995 when the values start to decrease, respectively to -9.56‰ in 2021 (Fig. 3).

The values of the natural balance are influenced by the values of two important indicators, namely birth rate and mortality rate. Thus, we can appreciate that Orșova registers a negative natural balance. The main reason for the decrease of this indicator is the continuous decrease in the birth rate and, at the same time, the increase in the mortality rate.

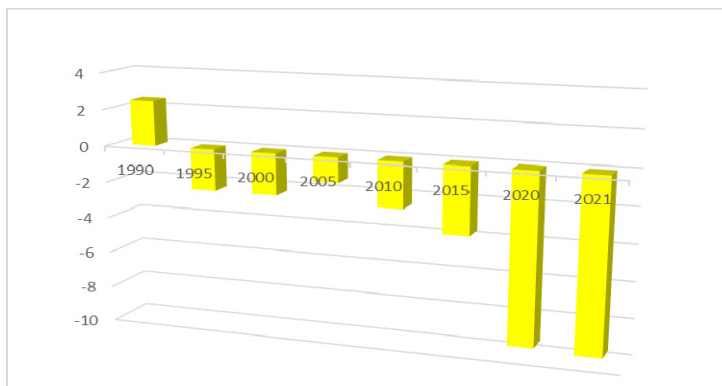


Fig. 3. The evolution of the natural balance at the level of Orșova municipality
Source: INS data processing

The downward evolution of the indicators of the natural and migratory dynamics of the population occurred against the background of the encountered economic difficulties, difficulties that negatively influenced the birth rate and favored either a migration of the population to more developed cities (Timișoara, Bucharest), or another phenomenon - migration external.

Regarding the structure of the population by age groups, we note that at the level of Orșova municipality, the proportion of the elderly

population increased from 16.58% in 2000 to 28.83% in 2021. We can thus speak of an accentuated demographic aging process.

4.2. Analysis of the socio-economic potential of Orșova municipality

4.2.1. Economic activity at the local level

The development of infrastructure and basic local services at the level of the locality are essential elements in any effort to exploit and promote the tourist potential, highlighting at the same time the socio-economic development of the locality.

The analysis of *the socio-economic development potential* of the locality was carried out starting from the premise that any city develops on the basis of its strong elements. The locality having a remarkable economic potential, the study aims to highlight the distribution of these activities by fields, focusing on the important elements and using a series of specific indicators (the share of salaries by economic branches, but also the share of the number of unemployed).

The share of the active population registered a downward evolution from 25.31% in 2002 to 20.46% in 2010, so that it then increased, reaching the value of 25.09% in 2021 (Fig. 4).

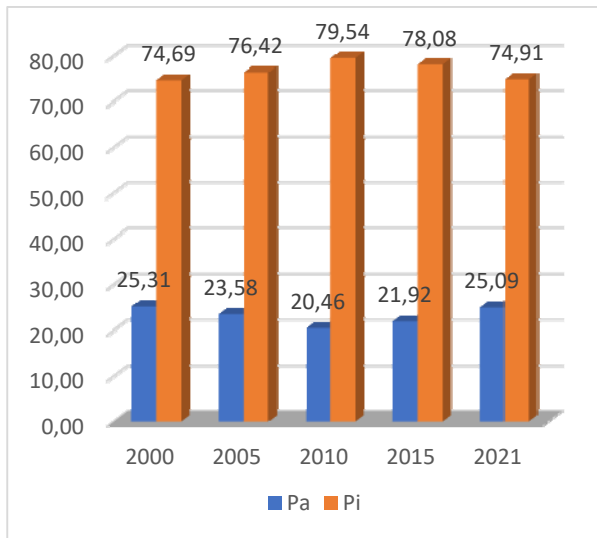


Fig. 4. Share of the active/inactive population in the total population

Source: INS data processing

The downward evolution of the active population is the result of a less developed economy (the closure of some industrial units, and at the same time the presence of a reduced number of investors).

The gradual decrease in the share of the active population was influenced by the evolution of demographic factors: the increase of the elderly population, to which is added a reduced and sometimes even negative natural increase, the migration of the working-age population. The share of the active population is increasing slightly due to new investments in tourism and trade, but the value is still low. Knowing the ratio between the active and inactive population is more and more necessary, as it depends, both now and in the future, on the way to provide labor for the various economic branches, implicitly tourism.

According to statistical data, the preponderance of the active population is in agriculture, followed by industrial activities, construction, trade, transport and services. The values are still low *for the active population in education, health and tourism* (Fig. 5).

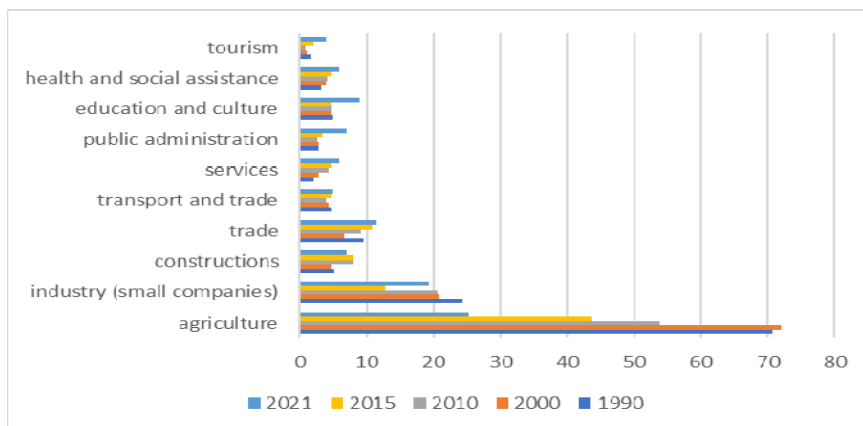


Fig. 5. Share of employees by types of activities

Source: INS data processing

The low values of employees in the tourism activity are due to the existing infrastructure. Accommodation structures are insufficient, food establishments are quite limited as well as diversity, and leisure facilities are insignificant. Although there is a slight increase in the number of

accommodation units, we cannot say that tourism can be considered an important economic activity of the city, but it could become so in the future. The fact that in 2019 there is almost a doubling of the number of employees, may represent the beginning of new directions of economic development.

4.2.2. The evolution of tourist services at the level of Orșova Municipality

Tourism represents one of the economic sectors with real prospects for long-term development. In the field of tourist services, there must be optimal conditions for tourists, which requires the recovery of the body's physical capacity, but also the pleasant spending of free time. It can be said that this type of service has a complex content, being a combination of several elements, realized through a tourist analysis (accommodation infrastructure, public food, transport and leisure)

The tourism analysis refers to a certain development of the existing tourism potential at the level of the municipality, considering on the one hand the resources of the natural environment, and on the other hand the existing tourist infrastructure (number of accommodation units, number of places in accommodation units) and the number of tourists visiting the locality for a certain period of time (arrivals, overnight stays).

a. Accommodation infrastructure

The accommodation infrastructure is an important aspect in the analysis of the existing tourist market in Orșova, an analysis based on a series of tourist indicators such as: the number of arrivals, the number of overnight stays by tourists, the average length of stay, the index of net use of the capacity accommodation in operation.

The analysis of tourist demand focuses on the evolution of the main indicators (accommodation units, number of places in accommodation units, arrivals and overnight stays), to which is added another category of indicators represented by the density of tourist traffic and the degree of occupancy.

Regarding the number of accommodation units (the number of accommodation structures), the increase is significant, from 2 units at the level of 2000 to 8 units in 2020 (Fig. 6). Regarding the distribution by types of accommodation units, hotel-type units were predominant for

the entire period. However, it should be noted that in the year 2000 there was no hostel, instead there was a camp for school and preschool children, a situation that changed in the following 20 years (Fig. 7).

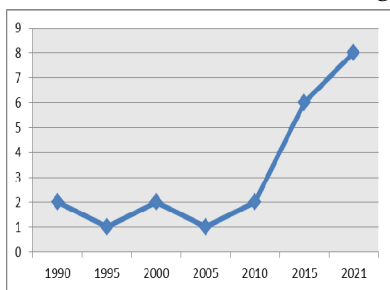


Fig. 6. Evolution of the number of accommodation units
Source: INS data processing

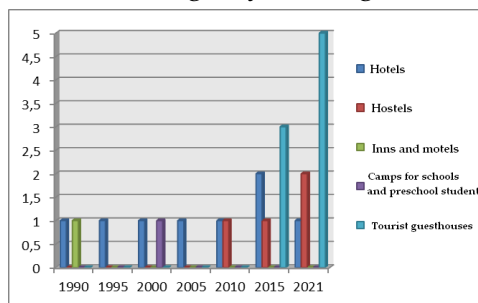


Fig. 7. Evolution of the number of accommodation units by type
Source: INS data processing

Likewise, in the case of the number of places in the accommodation units, the curve is also variable, but with much greater decreases compared to the evolution of the number of units. There is a slight decrease until the year 2000 for hotel-type units, following that after this year, the values will decrease by more than 60% of the initial value. (see Fig. 8 and 9). The decrease in the number of places in type units hotelier and the appearance of hostels and tourist hostels, after 2010, demonstrates a reorganization of tourism activities at the local level (the increase in the number of accommodation units, especially those of the hostel and hostel type), a fact that also emerges from the analysis of the number of arrivals and overnight stays.

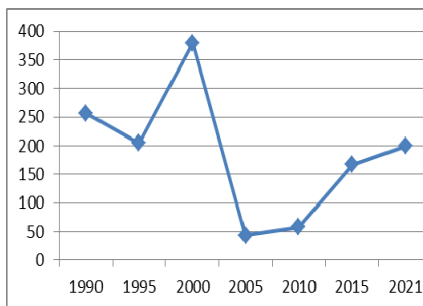


Fig. 8. Evolution of the number of places in accommodation units
Source: INS data processing

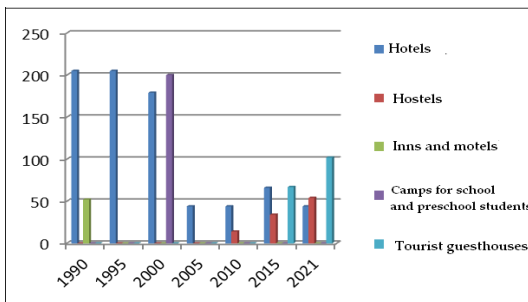


Fig. 9. Evolution of the number of places in accommodation units by type
Source: INS data processing

According to statistical data, the same downward trend was also observed in case of number of arrivals and overnight stays, until 2010, *the curve will continue to grow until 2021* (Fig. 10 and 11).

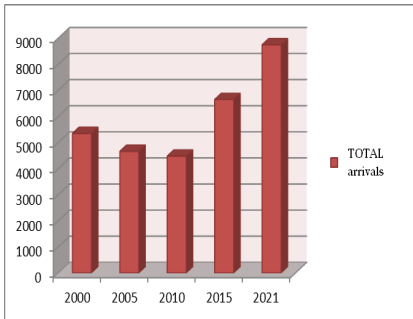


Fig. 10. Evolution of arrivals in accommodation units by types of structures
Source: INS data processing

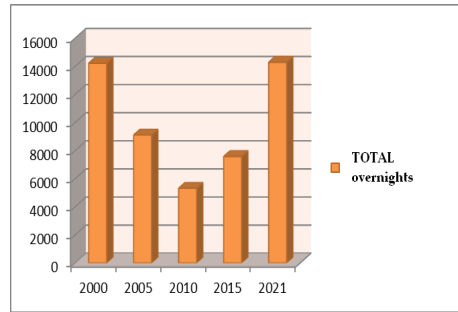


Fig. 11. Evolution of overnight stays in accommodation units by types of structures
Source: INS data processing

Although in the 2020-2021 period, tourist activity at national and even global level was dominated by a series of restrictions as a result of the pandemic triggered by the Sars-Cov 2 virus, at the local level, the curve is variable, with high values in the months of summer and respectively decreasing values for the winter months (Fig. 12).

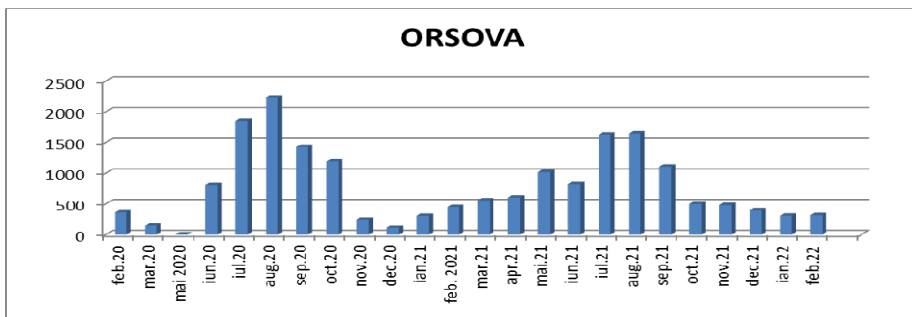


Fig. 12. Evolution of arrivals in accommodation units per month (February 2020 - February 2022)
Source: INS data processing

The second category of indicators, representative for an effective tourist analysis, is represented by the density of tourist traffic and the degree of occupancy of accommodation structures.

For the calculation of the density of tourist traffic at the level of the Orșova locality, the period 2000-2021 was taken into account, as a reference period, an interval that highlights a series of values, decreasing until the year 2010, a fact that is due on the one hand decrease in the number of, and on the other hand there are decreases in the number of arrivals. After 2010 and up to the level of 2021, there will be a period of continuous increase in the tourist density, a fact that can represent an opportunity to capitalize on the local tourist phenomenon (Fig. 13).

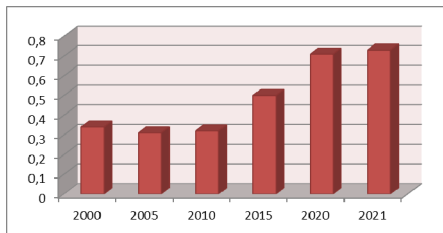


Fig. 13. Representation of the density of tourist traffic at the level of Mun. Orșova

Source: INS data processing

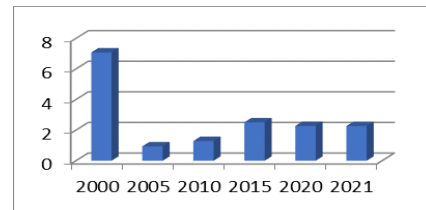


Fig. 14. Representation of the degree of occupancy in accommodation structures

Source: INS data processing

Regarding the degree of occupancy in accommodation structures, this indicator had high values until the year 2000, after this interval the curve is fluctuating, with massive decreases until the year 2005, followed by increases until the level of 2015 and again decreases until the level of 2021. The main causes of the decreases recorded at the level of 2021 are largely due to the Covid restrictions (Fig. 14).

The average length of stay is also decreasing from 2.65 in 2000 to 1.13 in 2015, after which the value increases slightly to 1.63 in 2020 followed by a slight decrease to 1.52 in 2021 (Fig 15).

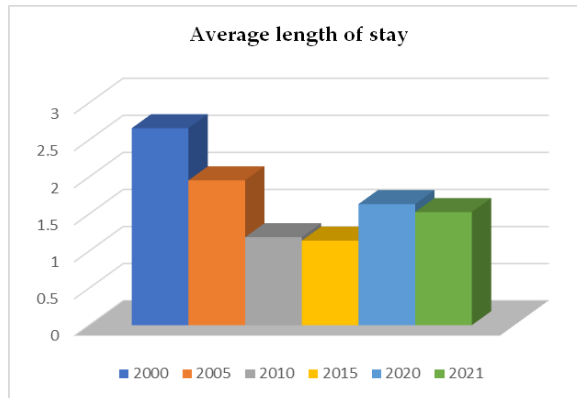


Fig. 15. Representation of the average length of stay
Source: INS data processing

b. Public catering infrastructure

Public catering represents the second important factor of tourist activity, representing an important aspect of satisfying tourists' wishes, contributing to shaping the tourist profile and at the same time tourist flows. Although as an economic activity, public catering is not intended to exclusively satisfy the needs of the tourist consumer, but is associated with existing tourist activities at the level of the locality.

Unlike accommodation structures, public catering structures can also be used by the resident population. The vast majority of public catering structures belong to tourist accommodation structures (in breakfast rooms, reception rooms and even in their own restaurants). On the other hand, there are food establishments, which operate individually, and which address a diversified range of consumers.

For the analysis of the market of public catering services in the Municipality of Orșova, the curve of the values of the number of public catering units was slightly flexible, with an increase at the level of 2010, then until the level of 2020 it recorded a slight decrease, and a new increase in 2021 (Fig. 16).

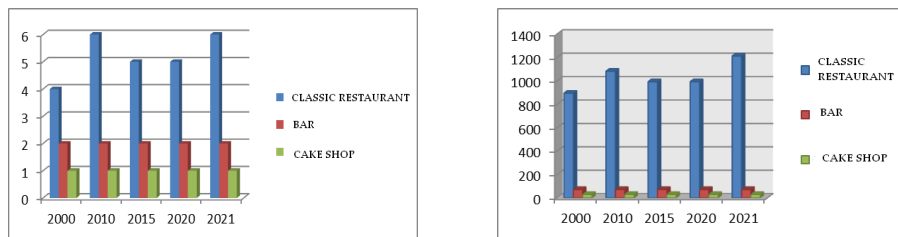


Fig. 16. Types, categories and number of seats related to public catering units
Source: statistical data processing by the Ministry of Tourism

Like types of public catering structures, the existing categories are extremely limited, being limited to restaurant (which is also the predominant type), followed by day bar and confectionery.

The analysis of the ratio between the number of accommodation places and the number of places at tables is considered to be optimal for meeting the needs of tourists when the values are 1 tourist/1 place and not optimal when the values are sub-unit, i.e. 2-3 tourists/1 table place (a fact that would lead to an agglomeration when serving the meal and implicitly the dissatisfaction of the tourist). For the town of Orșova, this report highlights a more than satisfactory situation. If in the year 2000, the needs to satisfy tourists were approximately 2.6 places/1 tourist, at the level of 2021, it reached almost 6.6 places/1 tourist.

The analysis by type is, however, differentiated, the advantage being the places in restaurant-type structures (with 6 places/1 tourist), and the disadvantage being day bars and confectionery (with 0.36 and 0.15 places/1 tourist, respectively) for the year 2021 (Fig. 17).

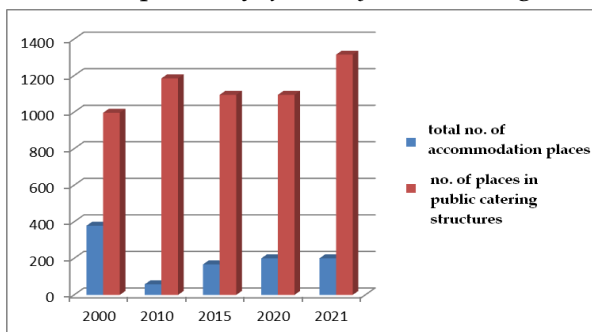


Fig. 17. The result of the report between the number of public school places and places to stay

Source: INS statistical data processing and the Ministry of Tourism

However, these values are increasing, compared to the year 2000 when in restaurant-type structures the percentage was 2.4 seats/1 tourist, in daytime bar-type structures 0.18 seats/1 tourist and respectively 0.07 seats/ 1 tourist, in confectionery establishments.

c. Leisure structures

Leisure activities can be analyzed according to the place where they take place, the level of organization and the form of participation of tourists.

For the town of Orșova, the leisure infrastructure aims at:

a. Activities in nature: walks in the open air, walks on the Danube embankment, minibus and coach trips, visiting tourist attractions, libraries, summer gardens, swimming pools, boat trips on the Danube, etc.

b. Activities for entertainment: discotheques, clubs, bars.

c. Sports activities: watercraft, water skiing (Danube Cliffs, Nautical Agreement Base, Mineru Stadium, City Stadium, Sports grounds within the High School premises, the Park Gen. Ion Dragalina, the Park I. C. Brătianu, Nautical sports base for practicing performance sports)

d. Cultural activities: theaters, cinemas, museums, art galleries, craft workshops. We also find a series of parks, representative being the Ion Dragalina Park, the I.C. Brătianu Park or the Northern Park. At their level, there are volleyball, basketball, handball, tennis courts, covered swimming pools with terraces, roller rinks, outdoor amphitheatres, climbing walls, etc.

Recreational facilities have as their objective the creation of conditions for fun and recreation, for pleasant leisure time, playgrounds.

d. Transport structures

Transports have direct implications both in the development of exchanges of products and activities on a local, national and international level, as well as in the social sphere, influencing and ensuring the realization of journeys.

Under this aspect, the city of Orșova is an important node in road traffic, provided by DN 6/E70 – Bucharest - Alexandria - Caracal -

Craiova - Drobeta-Turnu Severin - Caransebeș - Lugoj - Timisoara - Sânnicolau Mare - Cenad - Hungary and by DN 57 - Orșova - New Moldova - Oravița - Moravița, with high vulnerability to hydrogeomorphological processes (Grecu et al. 2012, Carablaisa et al. 2015). Railway traffic is ensured by the Bucharest - Timișoara highway, and the naval one ensures the direct connection with the localities in the Danube Gorge (from the Orșova Fluvial Station to the localities in the Danube Gorge) and with those along the Danube upstream and downstream of the gorge.

Road and pedestrian traffic is also important, which runs on three major traffic arteries, plus secondary ones that run parallel to the level curves.

Conclusions

The city of Orșova is an attractive destination for tourists, who participate in the program of visiting the sights in the area. Although it is a locality that came into being as an important industrial center, being declared a city in 1923, Orșova later developed in close correlation with the functions of the locality.

The evolution of the city of Orșova during the socialist period was marked by the deindustrialization process that generated major effects at the level of the locality gradually mitigated by the reorientation towards other fields of interest. Also, the shipyard's activity was reoriented to the production of parts. Against the background of the manifestation of the deindustrialization process, a greater dynamic of constructions and trade is noticeable, reorienting itself according to demand. As an effect of deindustrialization, the development of tourist services with a positive impact on economic and social life is starting again.

From a demographic point of view, the de-industrialization process has generated a tendency to decrease the population, on the one hand as a result of the decrease in the birth rate, as well as the natural balance.

Regarding the evolution of the working population under the impact of the manifestation of the industrialization process, a series of phenomena were identified such as: the flexibility of the workforce (in

the sense of a rapid and high-level retraining); the reorientation of a percentage of the workforce towards tourism activities which is highlighted by the increase in the percentage of employees.

One of the economic activities that experienced a slight revitalization in the context marked by the deindustrialization process is tourism, which generates new jobs and at the same time contributes to attracting the workforce, implicitly leading to the mitigation of unemployment as a result of the increase in the number of accommodation structures and their diversification. Thus, it can be appreciated that tourism represents one of the most important sectors of the local economy. However, there is a preponderance of transit and weekend tourism.

Exploiting the tourism potential of the municipality is aimed at increasing the well-being of the population. For this, it is necessary to increase tourism investments; modernizing, improving and diversifying accommodation, food and entertainment structures; improving transport infrastructure; the promotion of different types of tourism (religious, scientific, hunting, cycle tourism, wetland tourism), but also the application of solutions aimed at the transition from transit and weekend tourism to stay tourism.

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