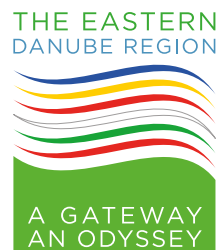


LANDSCAPE ATLAS

LANDSCAPES IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
IN THE ROMANIA - BULGARIA CROSS BORDER AREA





WE ARE GLAD TO INVITE YOU FOR A JOURNEY
THROUGH THE EASTERN DANUBE LANDSCAPES



“COMMON STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER AREA ROMANIA-BULGARIA” (SPATIAL), MIS-ETC 171

The Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration manages the implementation of the project „Common strategy for Sustainable Territorial Development of the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria” (SPATIAL), financed by the Romania - Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013. The project has a total value of 4,758,687.83 euros and is implemented over a period of 32 months (February 2012 - October 2014).

THE PROJECT BROUGHT TOGETHER 12 PARTNERS FROM THE TWO MEMBER STATES:

- ❑ Lead partner: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (RO),
- ❑ Partners:
 - from Romania: ARIES-Oltenia, the National Administration of Land Reclamation, Europroject
 - from Bulgaria: Ministry of Regional Development, District Administration of Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo Municipality, Human Resources Development Agency-Ruse, Business Suport Center for Small and Medium Enterprises-Ruse, ASDE-Ecoregions, Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism, Association of Danube River Municipalities.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE TERRITORY ANALYZED IN THE PROJECT:

- ❑ Seven Romanian counties: Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarași and Constanța;
- ❑ Nine Bulgarian districts: Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich and Razgrad.

THE RESULTS PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROJECT:

- The common strategy for sustainable spatial development of Romania-Bulgaria border area that will provide a vision of integrated spatial development of the cross-border area and a common framework of development for achieving cohesion and competitiveness;
- A common territory operational database, a common set of indicators and a cartographic database for the border area;
- A common methodology for territorial planning;
- An analysis and diagnosis of the current situation in the border area;
- Implementation of 2 integrated pilot projects:
- ❑ Elaboration of the regional spatial development scheme of Pleven district;
- ❑ Cultural and touristic hub along the TEN-T Corridor 9 - Veliko Tarnovo.
 - Implementation of 5 sectorial pilot projects in the economic field - competitiveness, education - human resources, agriculture, land improvement, transport and tourism:
- ❑ Economic growth along the border area;
- ❑ Improving skills and competence through training and business;
- ❑ Creating a database for land improvement along the border area;
- ❑ Capitalization of the landscapes from the cross-border area Romania - Bulgaria
- ❑ Development of a prefeasibility study for the investment objective - the construction of the third bridge over the Danube river between Romania and Bulgaria.
 - A regional brand promoted at European level for the common Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area;

FOCUS ON THE STUDY “INCREASING THE VALUE OF THE ROMANIA-BULGARIA CROSS-BORDER AREA LANDSCAPES”:

In the framework of the European Landscape Convention, the study “Increasing the value of the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area landscapes” aimed at providing first elements to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional and cross border level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes so as to maintain and improve landscape quality and bring the public, institutions and local and regional authorities to recognise the value and importance of landscape and to take part in related public decisions. The integration of the landscape dimension in the preparation of spatial management policies, both general and sectorial, will lead to a better protection and management of natural

heritage in the cross border area. In the framework of this study, the following tasks has been completed:

- An analysis of the current legislative situation concerning landscapes protection and management in Romania and Bulgaria
- A methodology for the inventory, evaluation and classification of the landscapes in the cross border area
- A landscape atlas of the cross border area
- A technical documentation for the implementation of panoramic viewpoints
- A report with recommendation of policies, measures and projects for the landscapes’ protection and the promotion.



Danube near Oltinga village,
CONSTANTA

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES



METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

1- METHODOLOGY

1.1 THE CONCEPT OF LANDSCAPE: «SCIENTIFICAL» AND SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS (PERCEPTIONS)

« Landscapes » come always to existence at the intersection of objective and subjective elements.

Landscape is firstly related to the feelings that men have while watching a territory. This feeling is linked to each person’s cultural and historical background. One territory, through the eyes of different persons, means often different landscapes.

Landscapes are «debatable». Landscapes are mainly emotions that can only be evaluated directly on the field.

> LANDSCAPE AS A PERCEPTION

Landscape is related to the relationship **between people and places**. People’s perceptions transform land into the concept of landscape. Landscape is a **subjective concept** and therefore can be the object of many definitions and evaluation methods.

«In Europe, the concept of landscape emerged around the turn of the sixteenth century to denote **a painting** whose primary subject matter was natural scenery (Punter 1982; Cosgrove 1993)»

The visual perception is, of course, the first tool that assesses a landscape. That is why a part of the chosen indicators, created throughout this study to classify the landscapes, use the notion of «visibility», or «visible presence».



Young tourist in front of the Danube...



Sheep in Baragan plain: a threatened traditional activity

Thanks to these indicators, we analysed «subjective elements» through a well-defined methodology. We, therefore, create a comparison tool by exploiting the same indicators for all the different landscapes of the studied area.

Concept of «presence» or « visibility» is not just about **visual perception**, or how we see the land, but also about how we hear, smell and feel our surroundings. Eventually it is also about the feelings, memories or associations that they evoke.

> «LANDSCAPE»: BETWEEN NATURE & CULTURE

« **Landscape** » can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as well as a mountain range, an urban park or an opened lowland plain. It results from the way that different components of our environment - both **natural** (the influences of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna) and **cultural** (the historical and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions) interact with each others and are perceived by us.

« Thus a landscape can also be defined as a social structure with economic purposes developed in an initially «natural» setting.» (European Landscape Convention, Florence, 20.X.2000)



Traditional fishing on the Danube near Tutrakan



Urban shepherd in the city of Ruse : what kind of landscape does he «feel» ?

> KEY CONCEPTUAL LAYERS
TO READ THE LANDSCAPE

« **Picture** » Because landscape is an image, an «aesthetic object»... a subjective image created by perception.
We can experience it because of the sensory stimuli that it generates.

«**Geographical picture**» because landscape can be described through the joint use of physical and human geography.
The effects of multiple factors on a land (geological, hydrological, climatic...) will facilitate the developing of agriculture, the ploughing of soils and the choice for strategic places to build villages, roads, secular historical paths, fortresses.

Landscape is jointly created by nature and human actions that transform it by using it or that preserve it through the creation of protected areas.

« **Dynamic picture** » because the problematic of landscape is getting more and more complex when trying to grasp and to follow its evolutions.
The speed and the complexity of their modifications as the diversity of the involved stakeholders requires us to abandon a static analysis and to create tools that fit this dynamics.

« **Landscape is a heritage**» because it is a something that we have to keep and transmit to the next generations.

The first step is to understand the essence of the heritage we received.

The second is to protect it, to encourage sustainable ways of life and production that preserve it or even to try to correct the damages that occur.

The third is to improve people’s education and to implement a relevant landscape management policy that will ensure that the next generations follow our path.

The poet René Char wrote in 1946 that “our heritage is preceded by no testament”, it inspires us the idea that it is now the time and our duty to write a testament through our awareness and actions in order to protect our heritage and to avoid its squandering by our heirs.



1.2 OUR METHODOLOGY

This study was organized in 3 steps :

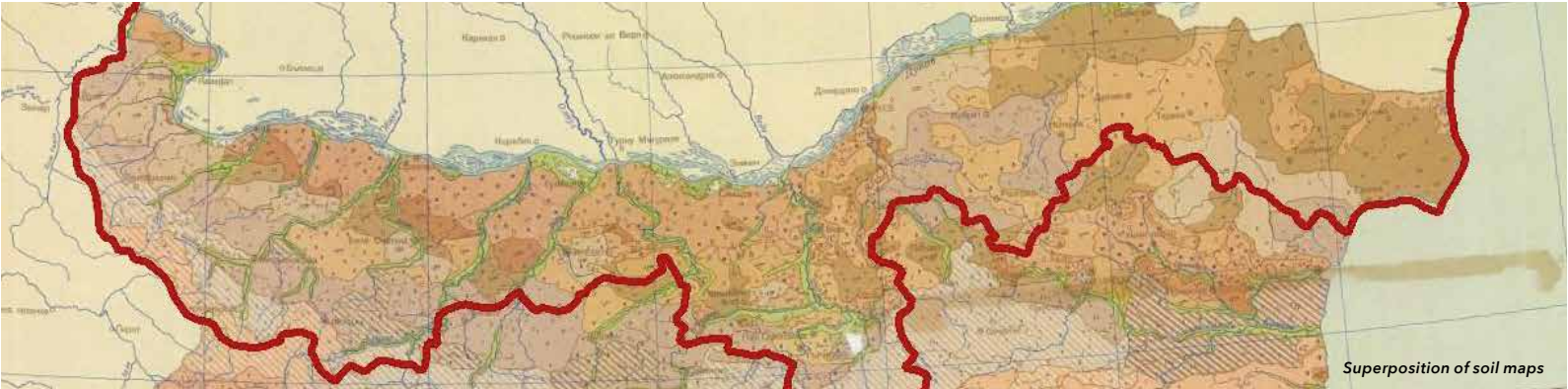
- Step 1: Desk study
- Step 2: Field survey
- Step 3: Classification and recommendations

The definition of the landscape units was a complex work which needed an in-depth desk study and a field survey in order to confirm the first results of the desk study.

STEP 1: THE DESK STUDY

Firstly, we studied the geomorphology of the cross border area, the evolution of land use and its general history. We used historical maps in different fields and we created various thematic maps. All these maps were superposed on Geographical Information Systems and layers were created:

Geological, hydrological, natural heritage area, architectural, urbanisation, agricultural, transport, historical...layers



LANDSCAPE IS A PALIMPSEST

A **palimpsest** is a manuscript page from a scroll or book from which the text has been scrapped or washed out so that it can be reused.

Usually landscape layers are combined and also removed...many historical sites have been destroyed, stone by stone, and the materials have been used for building purposes in the neighbouring villages.

Each generation modifies the landscape for a specific purpose, but generally, there are still «remnants», that can be used to understand the landscape’s evolution.

These **«field observations»**, correlated with historical data, maps... are very useful to understand for which reasons the territory used to be valorised, through commercial, agricultural or military activities and often through a mix of them.

Historical elements are the primary layers that have to be taken into account. They represent the rationale and tell the story of our predecessors. It is very often a strong inspiration and support for any intervention in the landscape.

These elements are the result of **a ancient and continuous relation between men and nature...**

In order to analyse these changes, we gave a special attention to written or pictorial descriptions of the territory: movies, pictures, books, sketches...

Through the superposition of the layers, the logical coherence of the cross border area’s territory has been revealed. For example, sandy soils fit for vegetables if they are in the vicinity of water sources that can be used for irrigation as it is the case in the Dabuleni, Izbiceni, and Slivo pole areas. These analysis permitted to define some theoretical units with different kind of boundaries.

- 3 types of boundaries** were defined:
- 1. Clear boundaries based on landscape geomorphological elements such as steep escarpments or forest edges
 - 2. Visual continuity as the different types of landscape characters and areas rarely conform to administrative boundaries.
 - 3. Transition landscapes, wide or small areas, where the passage from a landscape unit to another is made. Landscape is a continuum and its character does not, in general, change abruptly.



Ottoman graveyard in Lanurile



Burial mound near Ostrov



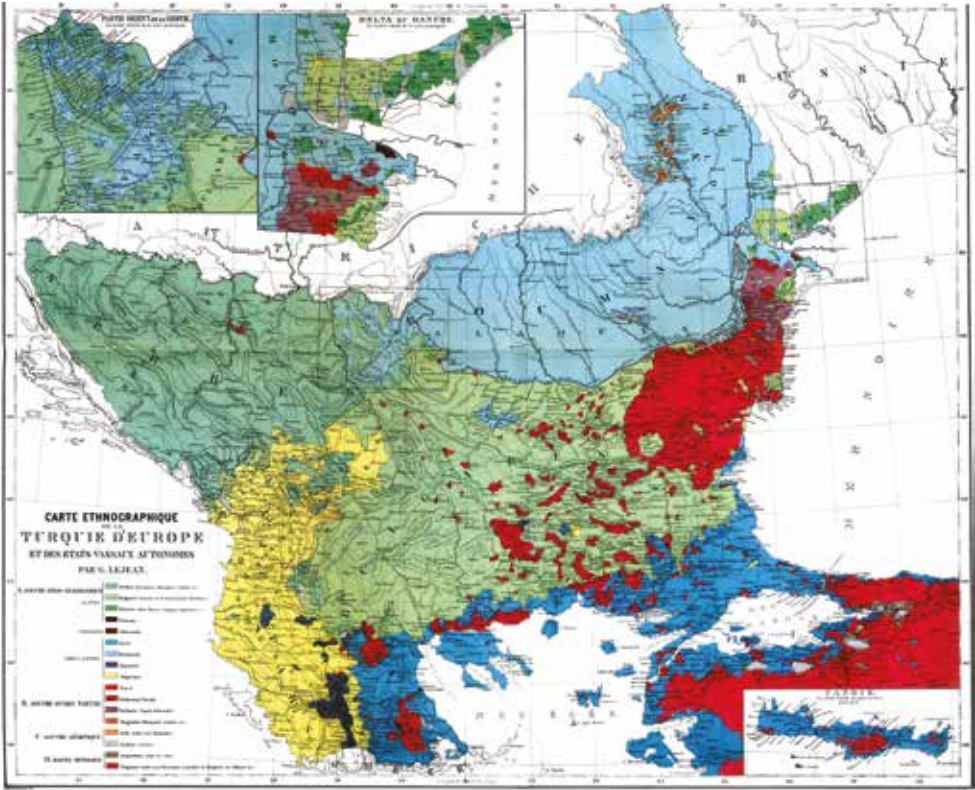
Roman street in Ulpia Escus, Ghighen village



The «new» old landscape in Tutrakan fishermen area

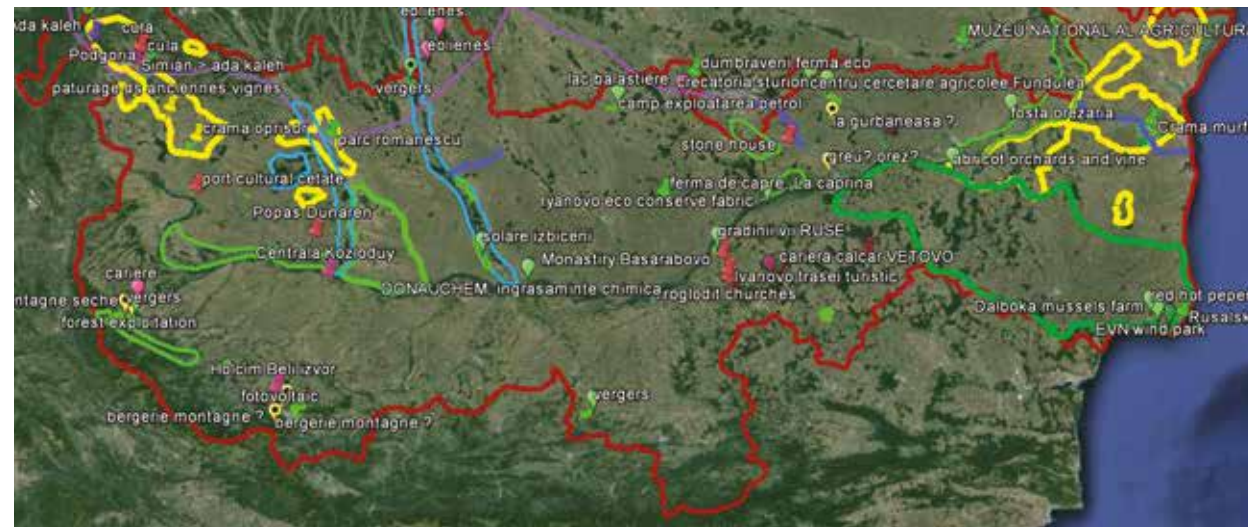


Abraham Ortelius’ map dating from 1584: The cross border area was already structured by the Danube and the mountains

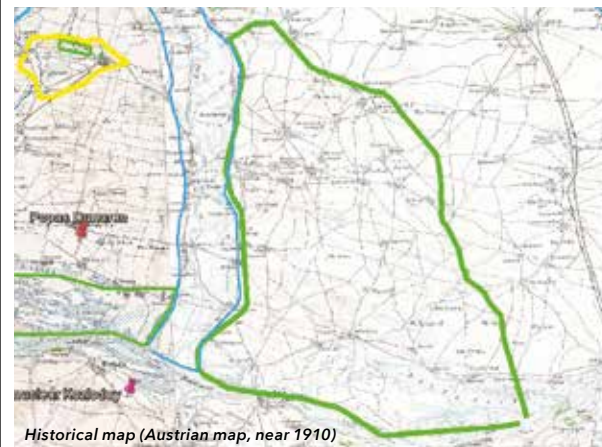


Ethnographic map of the Balkans

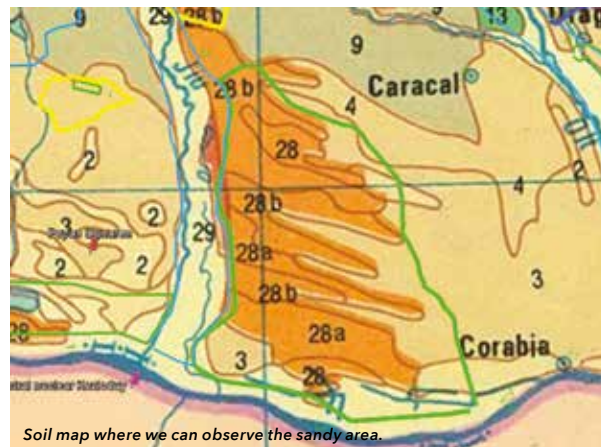
These general informations have been completed with thematic local points of interest



EXAMPLE OF A MULTILAYER ANALYSIS WHICH ILLUSTRATES DABULENI AREA SPECIFICITIES:



Historical map (Austrian map, near 1910)



Soil map where we can observe the sandy area



Aerial views from Google earth where we can identify the specificity of the agricultural structure



All these theoretical landscape units that were designed during the desk study had then to be checked and proofed through an **exhaustive field survey**.

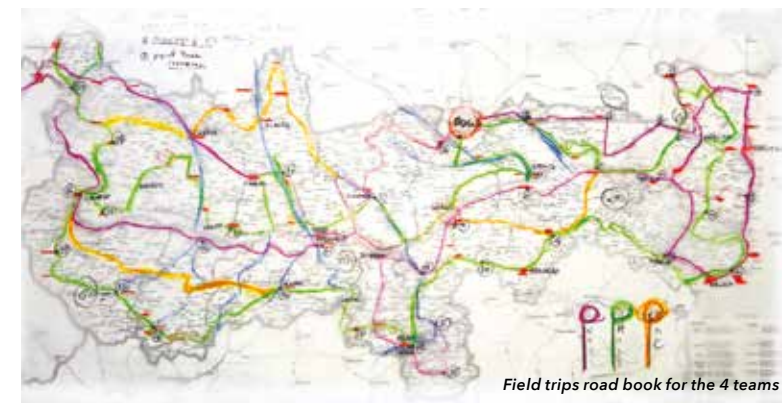
Field survey provided the important ground level view that shows how the landscape is seen by people. It helped us also to identify key elements or features that are not apparent from the desk study and therefore helped us to record aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the area. The field survey has been prepared according to a precise methodology.

First, it focused on the most used transport and communication routes (roads, rural paths, navigable waterways...) in order to analyse the landscapes with the same point of view as local inhabitants, travellers, tourists, commuters or simply users.

Then, the less visible landscapes, the less connected to the transport network, such as floodplains, forests, agricultural lands, have been analysed.

The comparative study of the most and the least visible landscapes revealed subtle links between the notion of landscape and territory and allowed an objective overlook of the current use and dynamics of the territory.

During the field survey, the main tools were visual ones such as drawing sketches or taking pictures in order to feed, illustrate and confirm our field perception and complete the analysis of our interviews and conversations with local inhabitants.



Field trips road book for the 4 teams



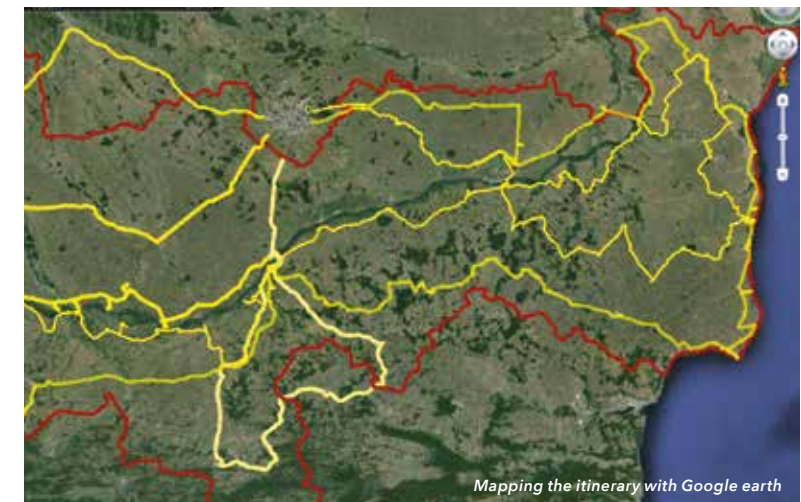
Searching and mapping interesting places with a GPS



Exploring the territory during the field study



Reporting informations on field study sheets



Mapping the itinerary with Google earth

1.3 CHOICE OF LANDSCAPES UNITS: OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

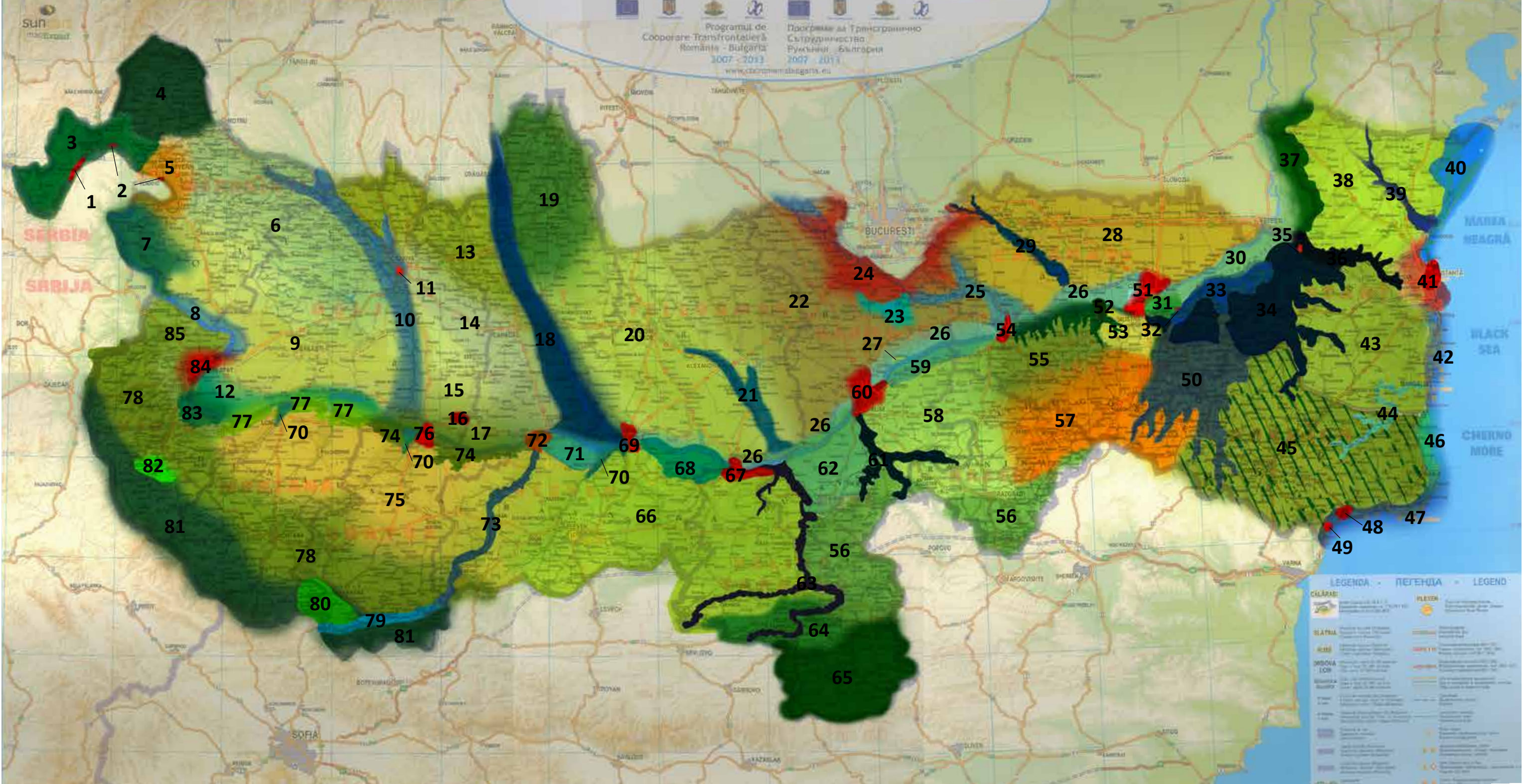
Key elements to define the Landscape Units:

1-Valleys are very important communication axis due to the historical connections with the area main element: the Danube. A special focus has been made on the waterscape (lakes, rivers, sea) and on important points of connectivity along the Danube (twins cities)

2-The limits of the landscape units are sometimes very clear lines linked with geographical elements, but they can also be blurred and imprecise.

3-Different scales of landscapes has been illustrated such as «macro /mezzo landscapes» and «micro landscape». All the landscapes cannot have the same scale.The aim was to give the tools to analyze different scales of landscapes.

4-Specific landscape, with a strong cultural or historical importance or with a strong tourism potential, has been underlined.



> LANDSCAPE UNITS

- 1 CAZANELE DUNARII
- 2 ADA KALEH / SIMIAN
- 3 IRON GATES NATURAL PARK - ORSOVA BAY
- 4 MEHEDINTI MOUNTAINS
- 5 DROBETA CORRIDOR
- 6 BALACITEI PIEDMONT
- 7 DANUBE FLOODPLAIN NEAR OSTROVU MARE
- 8 DANUBE FLOODPLAIN NEAR SALCEA
- 9 BAILESTILOR PLAIN
- 10 JIU FLOODPLAIN
- 11 ROMANESCU PARK
- 12 DANUBE FLOODPLAIN NEAR BISTRET
- 13 OLTETULUI PIEDMONT
- 14 ROMANATILOR PLAIN
- 15 DANUBE MEADOW NEAR DABULENI
- 16 WATERMELON AREA OF DABULENI
- 17 DANUBE FLOODPLAIN NEAR IANCA
- 18 OLT FLOODPLAIN
- 19 COTMEANA PIEDMONT
- 20 BOIANULUI AND GAVANU-BURDEA PLAIN AREA
- 21 VEDEA VALLEY
- 22 BURNAZULUI PLAIN
- 23 COMANA-CALUGARENI AREA
- 24 BUCHAREST PERI-URBAN AREA
- 25 ARGES VALLEY
- 26 DANUBE FLOODPLAIN BETWEEN TURNU MAGURELE AND CALARASI
- 27 GOSTINU BEACH
- 28 BARAGAN PLAIN
- 29 MOSTISTEA VALLEY
- 30 BORCEA DANUBE BRANCH
- 31 OSTROV HILLS
- 32 PACUIUL LUI SOARE ISLAND
- 33 OLTINEI PLATEAU LAKES
- 34 OLTINEI PLATEAU VALLEYS
- 35 AXIOPOLIS VALLEY
- 36 CARASU VALLEY
- 37 HARSOVA TO CERNAVODA DANUBE RIVERSHORE
- 38 CASIMCEA PLATEAU
- 39 CASIMCEA VALLEY
- 40 SINOE LAKE
- 41 CONSTANTA CITY
- 42 ROMANIAN SEASIDE
- 43 COBADIN PLATEAU
- 44 KRAYMORSKA - COTU VAII DRY RIVER BEDS IN DOBRUDJA PLATEAU
- 45 DOBRUDJA PLATEAU

- 46 BULGARIAN SEASIDE NORTH FROM CAPE SHABLA
- 47 BULGARIAN SEASIDE SOUTH OF CAPE SHABLA
- 48 BALCHIK
- 49 ALBENA
- 50 SUHA REKA & HARSOVSKA REKA REGION
- 51 SILISTRA - CALARASI CITIES
- 52 SREBARNA MANAGED RESERVE
- 53 HILLS AND LOWLANDS BETWEEN SILISTRA AND TUTRAKAN (WITH LAKES AND MARSHS)
- 54 TUTRAKAN - OLTENITA CITIES
- 55 WOODED AREAS NORTH OF GLAVINITSA
- 56 RAZGRAD HILLS (HILLY AREA SOUTH FROM RAZGRAD)
- 57 LUDOGORIE (DULOVO, ISPERIH AND RAZGRAD WOODED AREAS)
- 58 RURAL LANDSCAPES NORTHWEST FROM RAZGRAD
- 59 SLIVO POLE FLOODPLAIN AREA
- 60 RUSE - GIURGIU CITIES
- 61 LOMOVETE RIVERS GORGES AND ADJACENT AREAS
- 62 RURAL LANDSCAPES BETWEEN YANTRA AND LOMOVETE RIVERS
- 63 YANTRA AND ROSITSA
- 64 PREDBALKAN IN VELIKO TARNOVO REGION (THE LOWER PARTS OF THE BALKAN MOUNTAINS)
- 65 NORTHERN SLOPES OF CENTRAL BALKAN MOUNTAINS (IN ELENA REGION)
- 66 CENTRAL PART OF BULGARIAN DANUBE VALLY
- 67 SVISHTOV - ZIMNICEA CITIES
- 68 BELENE - SUHAEI FLOODPLAIN AREA
- 69 NIKOPOL - TURNU MAGURELE CITIES
- 70 LOWER RIVER FLOATS IN BULGARIAN DANUBE VALLEY - VIT, OSAM, OGOSTA, LOM
- 71 GULYANTSI FLOODPLAIN AREA (CHERNO POLE)
- 72 ULPPIA OESCENSIIUM - SUCIDAVA OLD CITIES
- 73 ISKAR VALLEY
- 74 GORNI VADIN WATERFRONT
- 75 WESTERN PART OF BULGARIAN DANUBE VALLEY
- 76 ORYAHOVO - BECHET CITIES
- 77 KOZLODUI - LOM WATERFRONT
- 78 MONTANA - DIMOVO UPLANDS
- 79 ISKAR UPPER FLOAT
- 80 VRACHANSKI BALKAN NATURE PARK
- 81 WESTERN STARA PLANINA
- 82 BELOGRADCHIK ROCKS
- 83 ARCHAR WATERFRONT
- 84 VIDIN - CALAFAT CITIES
- 85 VIDIN FLOODPLAIN
- 86 BUCHAREST - VELIKO TARNOVO
- 87 DANUBE ROADS BG
- 88 DANUBE ROADS RO
- 89 IRON GATES - CALAFAT
- 90 RUSE - PLEVEN - VRATSA
- 91 CERNAVODA - HARSOVA
- 92 OLT VALLEY
- 93 BUCURESTI - PLEVEN
- 94 SILISTRA - BALCHIK

> CINEMATIC LANDSCAPE UNITS

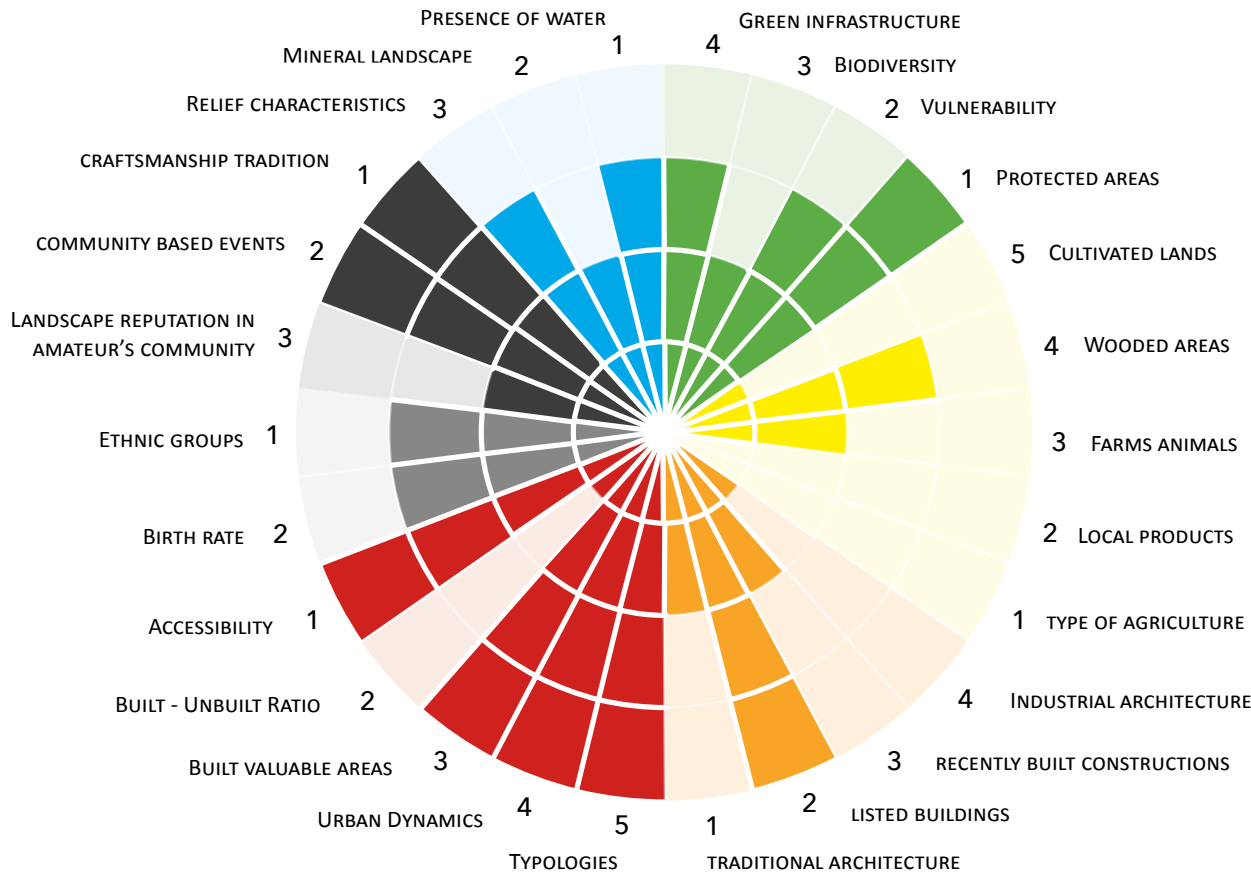
- 86 BUCHAREST - CONSTANTA A1
- 87 SEASIDE ROMANIA
- 88 SEASIDE BULGARIA

> THEMATIC LANDSCAPE UNITS

- 98 ARCHITECTURAL LANDSCAPE
- 99 VINEYARD AREAS
- 100 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

> THE INDICATORS CONSTELLATION/ A CHART TO ILLUSTRATE THE LANDSCAPES UNITS ASSESMENT

The diagram is a visual element created for a better comparison between the landscape units. The aim is to create a graphical representation of the main characteristics of the landscape units in order to understand easily which are the most important elements in each units .This result is not an evaluation but rather a standardized description of the key landscape features.



- AB ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDINGS
- AP AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL
- NP NATURAL POTENTIAL
- HG HYDROGEOMORPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- IG IMMATERIAL HERYITAGE
- HC HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS
- UTD URBAN AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

1> HYDRO-GEOMORPHOLOGICAL INDICATORS

- 1.1. Presence of water
 - 0-No visible presence of water
 - 1-Pits, pond
 - 2-Rivers, streams, spring
 - 3-Lakes, rivers with strong flows, landscape marked by water erosion
 - 4-Sea landscape, wetland
- 1.2. Presence of visible rocks, mineral landscape
 - 0-No visible presence of minerals
 - 1-Presence of stones
 - 2: Presence of rocks
 - 3-Strong and visible presence of rocks
 - 4-Mineral landscape
- 1.3. Relief characteristics
 - 0-Flat
 - 1-With valleys
 - 2-Clear, sharp valleys but large
 - 3-Narrow valleys
 - 4-Steep cliffs

2> NATURAL POTENTIAL INDICATORS

- 2.1. Superposition of types of protected areas
 - 0-No protected natural areas
 - 1- Presence of one Natura 2000 protected area
 - 2- Presence of more than one Natura 2000 protected areas
 - 3-Superposition of Natura 2000 and national protected areas
 - 4-Noteworthy and exceptional natural site (international recognised areas)
- 2.2. Vulnerability to the following threats: erosion, desertification, landslides and floods
 - 0-Vulnerability to all these threats
 - 1-Vulnerability to three of these threats
 - 2-Vulnerability to two of these threats
 - 3-Vulnerability to one these threats
 - 4-No vulnerability to any of these threats
- 2.3. The complexity and diversity of ecosystems, especially fauna and flora
 - 0- one single ecosystem of small value, monoculture
 - 4- 4 and more ecosystems per landscape unit: forests and wetlands and etc...
- 2.4. Green infrastructure for climate change adaptation
 - 0> no presence

- 1> isolated and damaged elements
- 2> presence of preserved natural elements
- 3> presence of preserved natural elements and of damaged green infrastructure
- 4> well preserved natural elements and development of new green infrastructure

3> AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL INDICATORS

- 3.1. Perception of type of agriculture
 - 0-No agricultural activity
 - 1-Traditional landscapes with small autarkic farms (< 5 ha)
 - 2-Traditional landscape with little farms (< 10 ha)
 - 3-Agricultural landscape with medium farms (10>500ha)
 - 4-Industrial agriculture landscape with big farms (>500ha)
- 3.2. Presence of «added value» specific local products
 - 0-No «local products»
 - 1-Historical presence of local products which are not distributed anymore
 - 2-Presence of local products in small local markets
 - 3-«Added value» local products well perceived while not promoted and sold in outside markets
 - 4-«Added value» local products with noteworthy image, promoted and accessible in outside markets
- 3.3. Visible presence of farms animals(0= not visible / non-existent > 4 = very important)
 - 0 - no « visible animals»
 - 1 - Few animals visible, rare, linked with family autarkic farm (< 5 units once)
 - 2 - Few animals, little herds for local production
 - 3 - Little and medium herds
 - 4 - Livestock farm landscape with a high concentration of animals
- 3.4. Importance of wooded areas in the landscape units
 - 0 - no wooded areas
 - 1 - small wooded areas (<20%)
 - 2 - some wooded areas (20<60%)
 - 3 - a lot of wooded areas (60>90%)
 - 4 - integral wooded areas (>90%)
- 3.5. Importance of cultivated lands (grasslands, arable lands...) in the landscape units
 - 0-No cultivated lands
 - 1-Very few cultivated lands (<20%)
 - 2-Some cultivated lands (20<60%)
 - 3-Wide areas of cultivated lands (60>90%)
 - 4-Integral cultivated lands (>90%)

4> ARCHITECTURE AND TO BUILDINGS INDICATORS

4.1 Presence of traditional architecture

- 0-No evidence of traditional architecture
- 1-Very few traditional houses or constructions
- 2-Some traditional architecture
- 3-Important presence of traditional architecture, emergence of clusters of vernacular construction
- 4-Typical traditional neighbourhoods with traditional architecture in majority

4.2 Presence of listed buildings (heritage)

- 0-No historical monuments
- 1-Very few historical monuments (category B in Romania or of local importance in Bulgaria)
- 2-Few historical monuments (category B or of local importance) or one A category monument or of national importance in Bulgaria
- 3-Important number of historical monuments (ensemble of B category or of local importance) or few A category or monuments of national importance
- 4-Concentration of A category or of national importance monuments or presence of international protected cultural heritage sites such as UNESCO ones

4.3 Presence of new buildings

- 0-No recent constructions
- 1-Very few scattered new constructions
- 2-Some new constructions, recent start of an urbanism scheme
- 3-Important number of noticeable new constructions (large or high dimensions)
- 4-Brand new complete neighbourhoods / villages that are an integral part of the landscape

4.4 Presence of industrial architecture

- 0-No industrial architecture
- 1-Very little industrial architecture
- 2-Some abandoned or not noticeable industrial architecture (no visible traffic, smoke or noise...)
- 3-Some operating or noticeable industrial architecture (visible traffic, smoke or noise)
- 4-Very important and noticeable industrial architecture, conglomerates or big factories either in use or abandoned

5> URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

5.1. Accessibility / transport infrastructure axis (0>4)

- 0 -No accessibility
- 1 -Difficult access in the area, infrastructure in poor shape,

one or few alternatives, bottleneck or cul-de-sac, sinuous or difficult topography

- 2 -Moderate access condition with at least one national or county route and railway line in marginal areas constrained by natural elements with poor connectedness between them
- 3 -Good access - one or more national routes or railway in moderate to good condition with several alternatives
- 4 -Very good access with several modes of transportation (railway, route, port or airport) as well as good connectedness between them

5.2. Ratio between built and non built environment (0>100% =0>4))

- 0 -Natural areas with very discrete or punctual built areas
- 1 -Built areas with very diffuse typology that immerse in the landscape
- 2 -Built and non built areas are intermixed or the perception upon them is of equal importance
- 3 -Built areas are dominant, forming ribbons or corridors of urbanization, fragmenting natural areas
- 4 -Landscape units are formed of dense urban areas in which non built areas are only a result of plot occupancy or urban parks, public spaces

5.3. The presence of valuable (or protected) built areas (from 0 to 4 for each landscape unit) (0>4) (valuable may also refer to unique features that are present in some settlements but that are not protected)

- 0-None
- 1-Small rural or urban ensemble of local considered as valuable
- 2-One or more areas or ensembles with a local scale protection status or recognized value
- 3-One or more areas or ensembles with a regional scale protection status or recognized value
- 3-One or more areas or ensembles with a national scale protection status or recognized value
- 4-One or more areas or ensembles with a supranational scale protection status or recognized value

5.4. Urban Dynamics: decline, stability or growth (0>4)

- 0-Divine, showing visible presence of worn out, deserted buildings or declined industrial facilities
- 1-Slight signs of decline with deserted buildings and households in poor condition
- 2-Relatively stable with very few changes in the recent years
- 3-Low expansion and increase of urban density

4-Recent and aggressive expansion and increase of urban density

5.5. Typologies: without permanent dwellings, scattered dwellings, clustered villages, small and medium sized cities, large cities and metropolis (0>4)

- 0-Settlement structure is very common with inefficient patterns of land occupancy
- 1-Settlement with non-cohesive intermixed patterns but with some recognizable structure
- 2-Pre-planned or organically developed settlement with clear structure
- 3-Pre-planned or organically developed settlement with distinctive features
- 4-Very-well developed settlement, highly individualized and displaying distinctive features

6> HUMAN SETTLEMENT INDICATORS

6.1 Variety and distribution of ethnic groups

- 0-The whole population is part of a single ethnic group
- 1-<5% of the population belongs to another ethnic group than the majority
- 2-<10% of the population belongs to another ethnic group than the majority
- 3-<20% of the population belongs to another ethnic group than the majority
- 4->25% of the population belongs to minority ethnic groups

6.2 Birth rate

- 0--Deserted area
- 1-Divine (relatively to past and national figures)
- 2-Stable (relatively to past and national figures)
- 3-Growth (relatively to past and national figures)
- 4-Strong growth (relatively to past and national figures)

7> IMMATERIAL HERITAGE INDICATORS

7.1 Presence of craftsmanship tradition

- 0-None

- 1-Utilitarian presence oriented toward local markets and needs
- 2-Presence of singular transmitted skills in distinctive craftsmanship
- 3-Reputation at national level for at least one domain of excellence in craftsmanship
- 4-Worldwide excellence in one distinct field of craftsmanship, important enough to consider applying for integration in the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage

7.2 Traditional and folkloric community based festive events

- 0- none
- 1-One or more event unknown to outsiders or similar to the national ones
- 2-One or more event known outside the area for some distinctive folkloric features
- 3-One or more event widely known for its important and peculiar traditional/ folkloric features
- 4-One or more event whose ancestral origins and preservation of unique folkloric traditions is important enough to consider applying for integration in the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage

7.3 Landscape reputation in amateur's community or in the tourism sector

- 0-None
- 1-Few pictures, paintings or postcards of the landscape available on the internet or on sale in local shops
- 2-Some pictures, painting or postcards of the landscapes available on the internet or in local and regional shops
- 3-Important number of pictures, painting or postcards of the landscapes available on the internet or in local and national souvenir shop
- 4-Wide availability of pictures, painting or postcards of the landscape on the internet or in local, national or international shops, iconic or symbolic representation of the region or the country



1.4 CHOICE OF PANORAMIC VIEWPOINTS: OBJECTIVES & PRINCIPLES

Following the desk and fields studies, 20 scenic viewpoints sites were highlighted in order to illustrate some of the key assets of the cross-border area. 14 sites were chosen in Romania, 14 in Bulgaria and 2 proposals of mobile panoramic/scenic viewpoints (one on a boat and one on a caravan) were made according to the following criteria:

- They ensure the observation and the valorisation of different kinds of landscapes (rural, urban, historical site, natural site...)
- They are able to provide a diversity of perceptions (a specific perception for a panoramic viewpoint, or a wide perception linked to a road or a path)
- There should be a scenic viewpoint in each county/district.
- The scenic viewpoints ensure a adequate valorisation of the cross-border area as a coherent whole (the vantage points near the Danube or the panoramas that span across the border were prioritized)

The scenic/panoramic viewpoints selection that resulted can be organized into 4 categories:

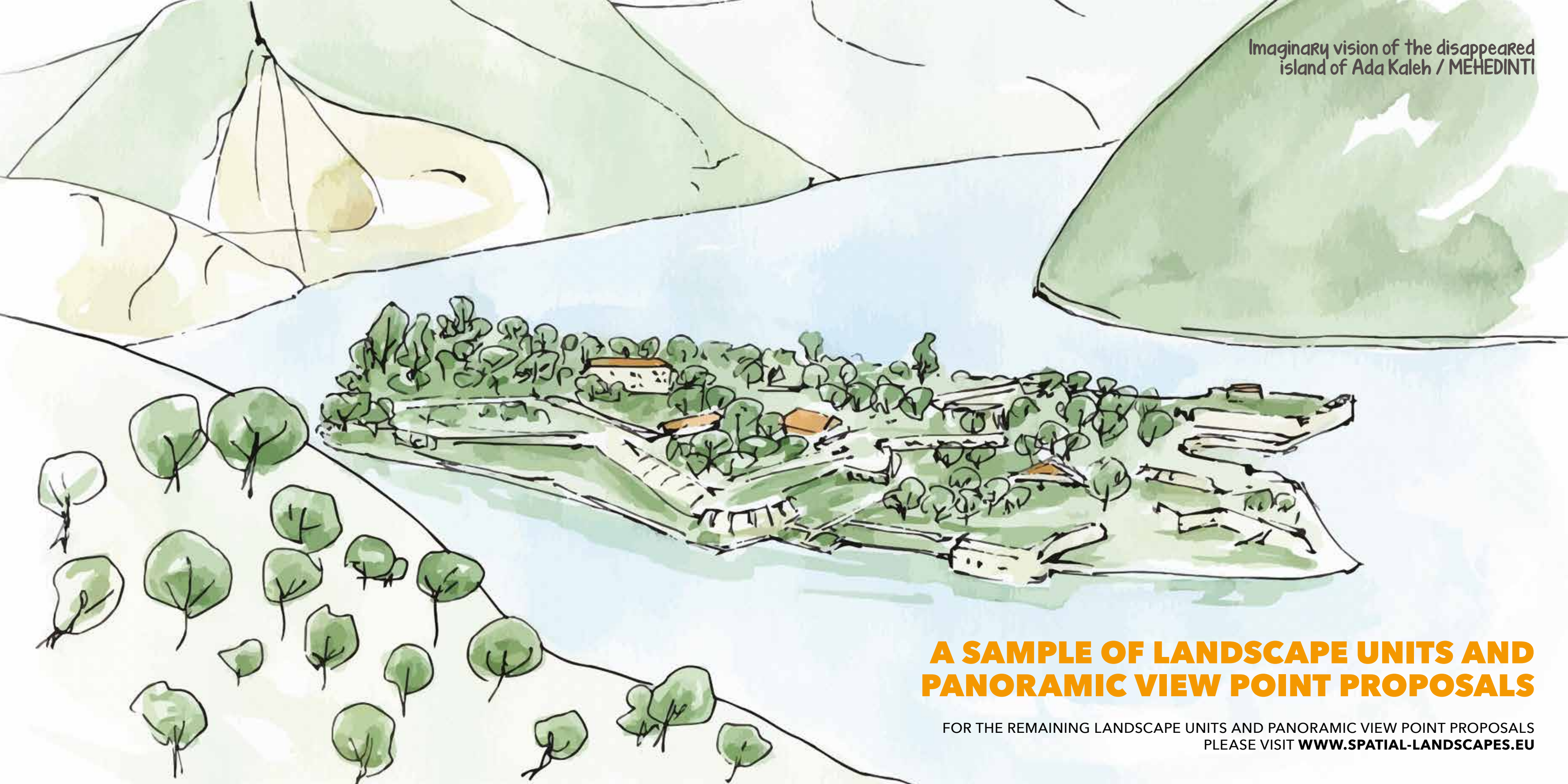
- 1-Panoramic viewpoint in a rural area (near a road, or at the top of a hill)
- 2-Panoramic viewpoint in an urban area (monument, park...)
- 3-Mobile panoramic point on water (boat)
- 4-Mobile panoramic point on earth, like «bee-caravans»



BELVEDERE / PANORAMIC VIEWPOINTS

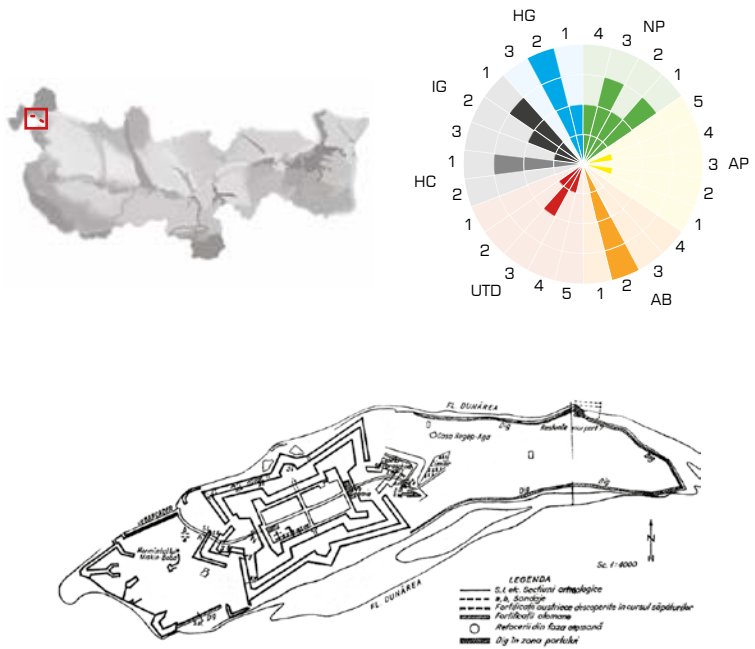
- 1-CAZANELE, SCENIC DRIVE / MEHEDINTI
- 2-ADA KALEH, REST AREA / MEHEDINTI
- 3-ISLAZ, PROMENADE AREA / TELEORMAN
- 4-JIU TERRACE, RURAL PROMENADE AREA NEAR VALEA JIULUI / DOLJ
- 5-GRADISTEA HILL, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / OLT
- 6-CORABIA FALEZEI PARK, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / OLT
- 7-ZIMNICEA BEACH, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / TELEORMAN
- 8-GOSTINU BEACH, PROMENADE / GIURGIU
- 9-SULTANA-MALU ROSU, V. MOSTISTEA, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / CALARASI
- 10-CALARASI, CENTRAL PARC PROMENADE / CALARASI
- 11-SEIMENI, REST AREA / CONSTANTA
- 12-CONSTANTA, SALIGNY PORT, URBAN PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / CONSTANTA
- 13- HARSOVA CARSIUM CITADEL, PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / CONSTANTA
- 14-OSTROV-DANUBE, SCENIC DRIVE / CONSTANTA
- 15-BALCHIK>SHABLA, SCENIC DRIVE/ DOBRICH
- 16-SREBANA NATURAL RESERVE, REST AREA / SILISTRA
- 17-TUTRAKAN PORT, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT/ SILISTRA
- 18-SVESHTARI TUMULUS, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / RAZGRAD
- 19-LEVENTA RUSE, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT/ RUSE
- 20-CHERVEN FORTRESS - RUSENSKI LOM, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / RUSE
- 21-VELIKO TARNOVO TSAREVETS , PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / VELIKO TARNOVO
- 22-NIKOPOL FORTRESS, PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / PLEVEN
- 23-ORYAHOVO PARK, CENTRAL PARK PROMENADE / VRATSA
- 24-KOZLODUY-LOM, SCENIC DRIVE / MONTANA
- 25-ARCHAR, PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / VIDIN
- 26-BELOGRADCHIK FORTRESS, PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / VIDIN
- 27-ZGORIGRAD CHAIRLIFT , PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT / VRATSA
- 28-THE «BALOVA SCHUMA» MEMORIAL COMPLEX, MONTANA, PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT
- 29-PANORAMIC BOAT ON DANUBE
- 30-PANORAMIC CARAVANE

Imaginary vision of the disappeared
island of Ada Kaleh / MEHEDINTI



A SAMPLE OF LANDSCAPE UNITS AND PANORAMIC VIEW POINT PROPOSALS

FOR THE REMAINING LANDSCAPE UNITS AND PANORAMIC VIEW POINT PROPOSALS
PLEASE VISIT WWW.SPATIAL-LANDSCAPES.EU

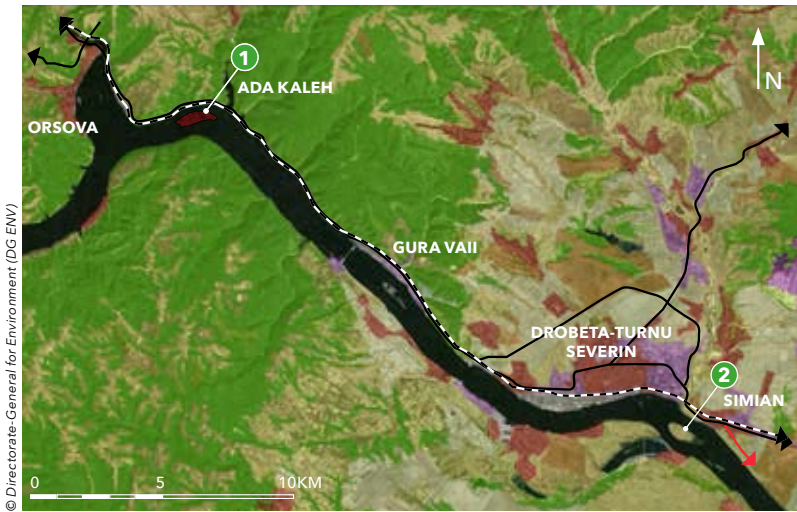


LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Ada Kaleh island was situated in a strategic area well known for its endless wars. This imaginary landscape unit was historically a strategic stake in Austrian-Turkish conflicts. In 1718, the Austrians took over the island and built a Vauban-type fortification: the New Orsova. After 20 years the island was occupied again by the Ottoman army who gave it the name of Ada Kaleh. It became a place of settlement for Turkish soldiers and for a community that kept their traditions. Because of its oriental characteristics, the island was considered until its disappearance as a cultural landmark, a Turkish oasis floating on the Danube under the protection of the authorities. Now, the island is unique as it belongs to the past but remains deeply anchored in memories. Indeed, the Ada Kaleh island no longer exist as it was submerged in 1970 in order to build the Iron Gates I dam. The past island was made of very dynamic alluvial formations, constantly undergoing a sedimentation process. The Mediterranean influence allowed, in the past, the adaptation of some exotic species of plants and animals. When the end came, everything was done to move Ada Kaleh piece by piece to the nearby Simian island. Nevertheless local conditions could not be moved to the new island and if many of the remains of the Ada Kaleh still exist and can be visited on the Simian island, its inhabitants and its spirit are definitively gone.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Former island Ada Kaleh 2/ Simian island



READING THE LANDSCAPE



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

At the beginning of the 20th century, Ada Kaleh's economy was flourishing because of its special economic status as a tax free zone. Jewels, tobacco and Turkish typical products were sold to the numerous visitors. Despite the first efforts to give life to the project of the Simian Island, it remained a pious vow especially because of the exile of the left inhabitants (less than a thousand then) who went to Turkey or scattered in other areas of Romania such as Dobrudja. The "new Ada Kaleh "(Simian island) did not have longer to face destruction but rather a slow abandon.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Ada Kaleh and its collective image is still present in people's mind, it is seen or reminded as a very exotic destination. Ada Kaleh is indeed the example of the western fascination for the Turkish culture, known as orientalism. This artistic trend was very influential notably in the 19th century. It inspired among others the writer Mór Jókai or the documentary Last spring at Ada Kaleh. This intangible legacy goes along with distinctive architectural sites which were relocated on the Simian island: the Mosque whose famous carpet was given to the Constanta Mosque, the Bazaar, the graveyard, parts of the fortress and the house of the governor " the Mahmut's Pasha".

THREATS

Forgetting can be seen as the main threat. The heritage of Ada Kaleh could become a major asset for the area. The richness of the whole area comes from its multiple influences, its rich history and its cultural and ethnic melting pot, neglecting such a strong one is a way to weaken all efforts leading to re-connect the area with its past as a major crossroads of civilizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Creating a memorial near the location of Adah Kaleh
- 2>To put up information signs on the route along the Danube that links the former island with the new museum on Simian island
- 3>Encouraging contacts and initiatives with Turkish government and communities in Romania stressing a common past
- 4>Organizing cultural events (music, dance, culinary) linked to the traditions of Ada Kaleh
- 5>Encouraging the creation of a new brand of local/oriental products related to the secular history of the island and using food products (as fruits or spices) specific to the Mediterranean climate.



REST AREA ADA KALEH, MEHEDINTI



DROBETA-TURNU SEVERIN,
EUROPEAN ROAD NO 70
GPS > 44°42'54.03"N ; 22°28'48.83"E

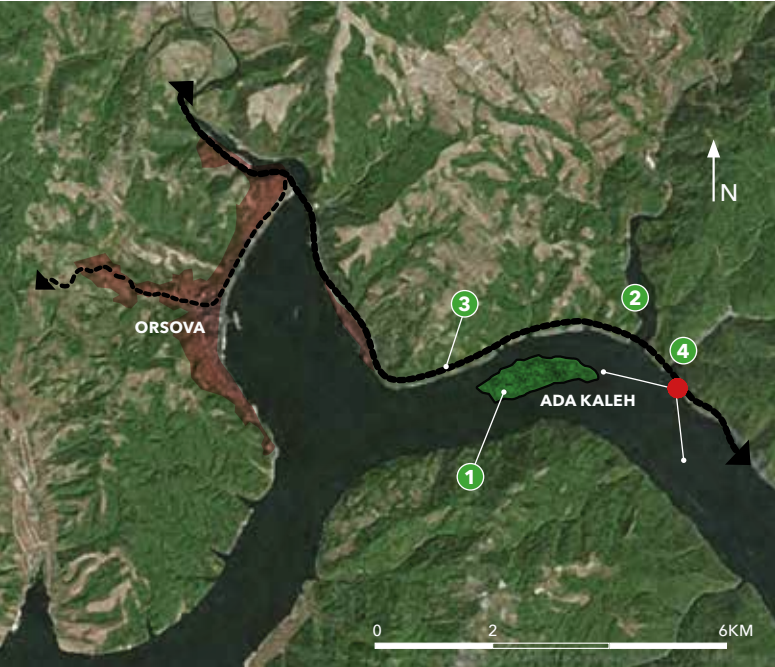
SITE DESCRIPTION

Between Orsova and Drobeta-Turnu Severin, the E70 road and the railway run parallel to the Danube river, allowing a continuous perception of the impressive watercourse. The events that took place in the area, the mistery surrounding these places and their history need to be marked by special stopover points.
After crossing the Vodita Valley towards Drobeta-Turnu Severin, a parking area can become the right place to imagine and discover the memory of the island of Ada Kaleh. For the moment, the existing space does not invite travelers to stop and admire the landscape.

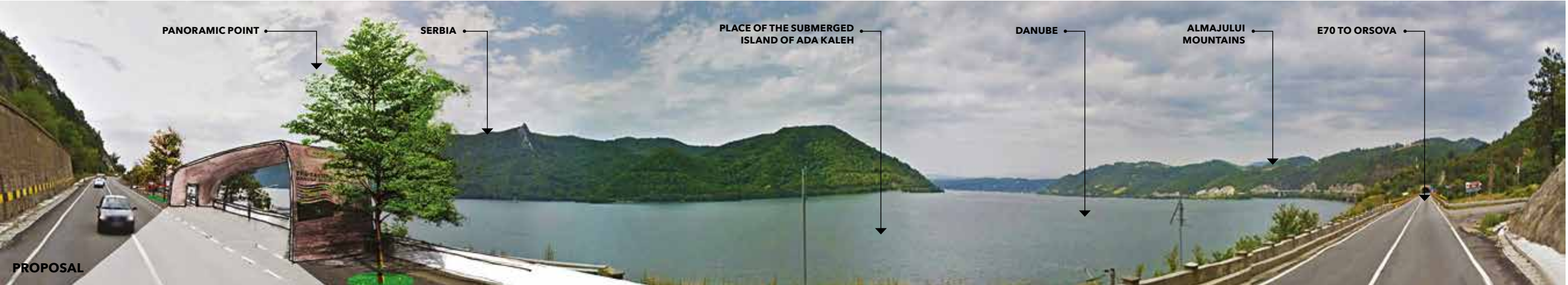


POINTS OF INTEREST AND ACCESIBILITY

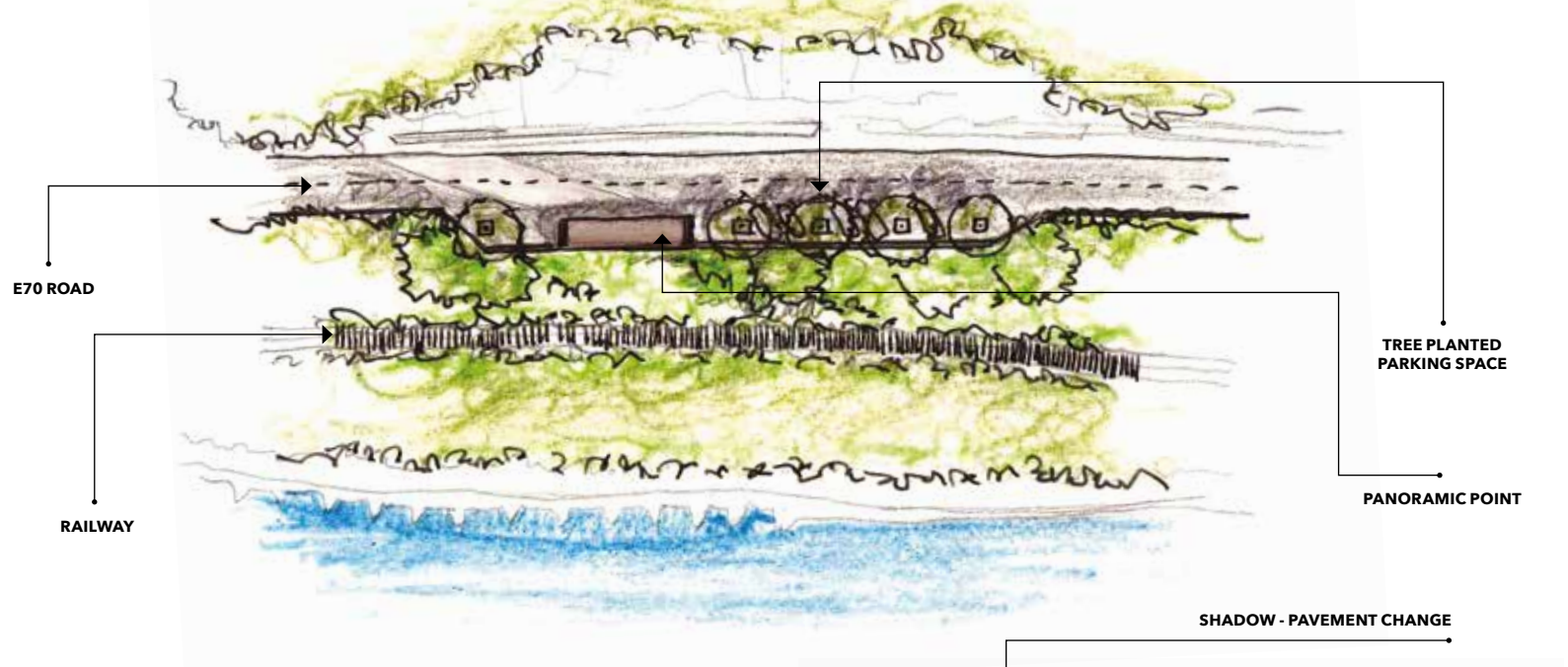
1/ Former place of Ada Kaleh 2/ Bahna valley 3/ E70 road accessibility 4/ Vodita valley



READING THE LANDSCAPE

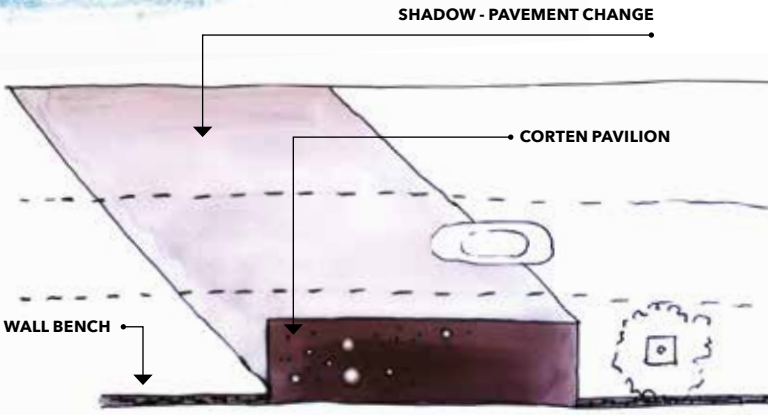


GENERAL PROPOSALS



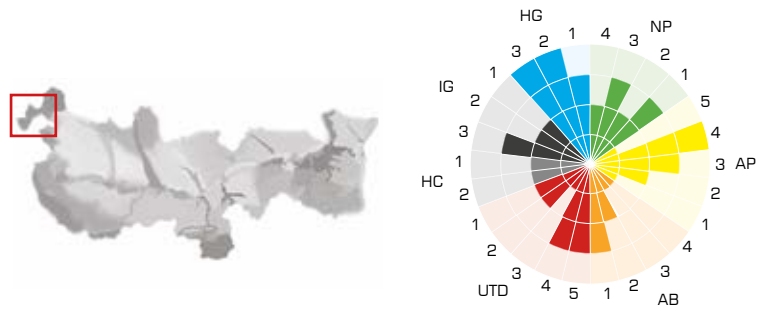
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Create a structure to mark the panoramic viewpoint.
- 2>Plant trees of local species to cast shadow over the parking space and create a pleasant rest area.
- 3>Plant groups of trees along the route before and after the stopover point in order to mark it.
- 4>«Cast» a shadow on the road to mark to position of the pavilion.
- 5>Replace the existent guardrail with a wooden guardrail.
- 6>Install information boards and totems.
- 7>Create a sitting and rest area.



Let's imagine the hidden city of
Ada Kaleh / MEHEDINTI





READING THE LANDSCAPE



DANUBE MASSIVELY BUILT WATERFRONT BELVEDERE GAZEBO CERAMIC LANDSCAPE MOSULUI HILL

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

This landscape has a very rich and long history, strategic place in the war between the Roman Empire and Dacia, it remained it throughout centuries, for instance in the wars between the Ottomans and the Habsburgs. Situated between the Almaj Mountains and the Mehedinți Highland, the landscape has a complex layout with progressive layers of built environment following the natural slopes of the terrain with housing typologies that form a unitary landscape.

It is centred around the city of Orsova and one of its distinctive features, the Cerna gulf, where the Cerna river empties into an artificial lake and spread out to the Cazanele Dunarii, the Mraconia gulf where are located famous historic sites.

The landscape strongly evolved between the 60's and the 70's when the Iron Gates Dam was built, Orsova had to be rebuilt at an higher level, an artificial lake was created and special measures

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Orsova 2/ Cerna Gulf 3/ Eibenthal 4/ Cazanele Dunarii



© Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)

were taken regarding the heritage of the Cazanele Dunarii. It was mostly preserved from flooding or degradation with some exceptions (Trikul Castle).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Although tourism has a huge potential in this particular area, it has only recently develop , before the city of Orsova was firstly a centre of diverse mining activities (bentonite, chromium, and granite) and of industrial activities" as energy production, shipbuilding and engine manufacturing, assembly plants for electricity production, textiles, and the processing of feldspar, asbestos, quartz, talc, wood, etc." The population of the city has dramatically decreased by 37% between 2002 and 2011 and is composed mainly of Romanians with a minor presence of Serbian and Czech communities. Nevertheless in some parts of the landscapes as in the mountain village of Eibenthal, the majority of the population is Czech.



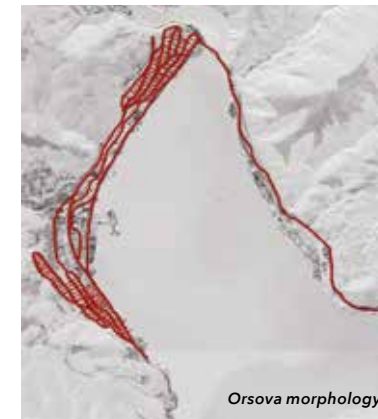
Eibenthal - Czech village



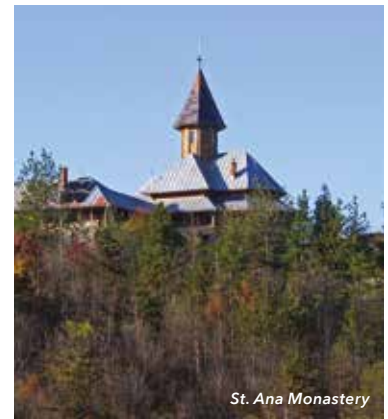
Near Dubova

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Promote sustainable tourism around the iconic inland points of interest along the Danube and in the whole national park
- 2>Initiatives towards population and investors in order to highlight new opportunities in relation with tourism
- 3>Partial transformation of the port area in Orsova for tourism and Danube leisure purposes
- 4>Enhance cross-border cooperation with Serbia
- 5>Diversification of agriculture taking advantage of the Mediterranean climate
- 6>Balanced development policy in order to enhance interaction between tourism and other sector of the economy.



Orsova morphology



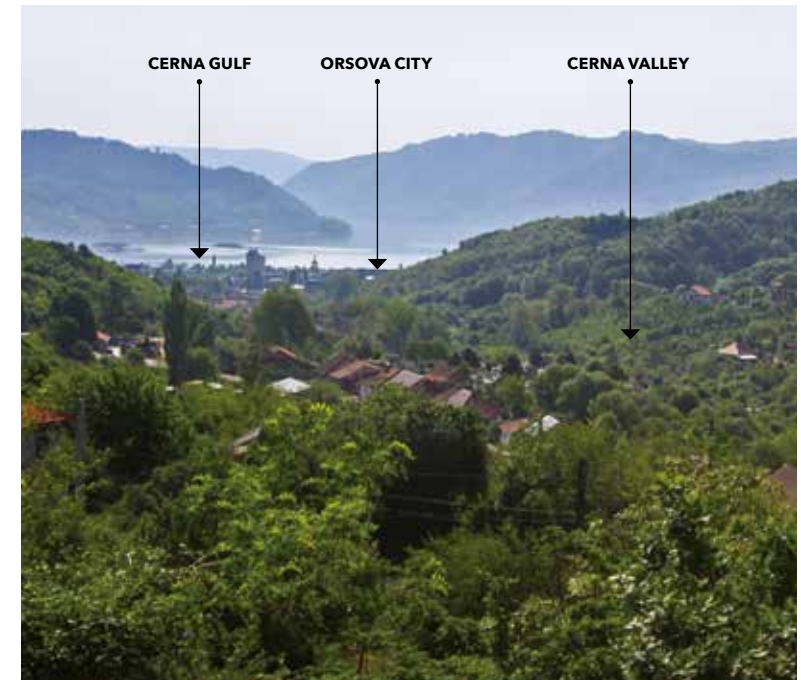
St. Ana Monastery

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Orsova is one the two major urban areas in the Iron Gates Natural Park. Its location in one of the largest and most famous Romanian protected areas is an exceptional asset for a city that can then provide access to both natural and cultural heritage. Indeed the landscape gives beautiful perspectives on the Danube for instance from the heights of the city of Orsova at the St Ana Monastery and in the south-west, in the Cazanele Dunarii where are situated some of the most iconic sites of the Danube river as the Decebalus Statue, the Veterani and Ponicoval caves, the Trikul Castle and the Mraconia monastery.

THREATS

The immediate threat is the declining of the mining and the shipyard activities along with a dramatic decrease of the population. The turn to the development of the tourism sector has been done although this potential is not yet fully exploited. The accommodation capacity or the number of trained tourism sector employees is not sufficient, in other words the infrastructures and the culture of a touristic area are still in development. On the other hand the landscape has also to prevent a sole focus on tourism, such a positioning on the Danube facing Serbia gives Orsova many opportunities. Only emphasizing tourism development would be detrimental to the diversification and health of its economy and would lead to the danger of common tourism pitfalls as seasonality.



SCENIC DRIVE CAZANELE, MEHEDINTI

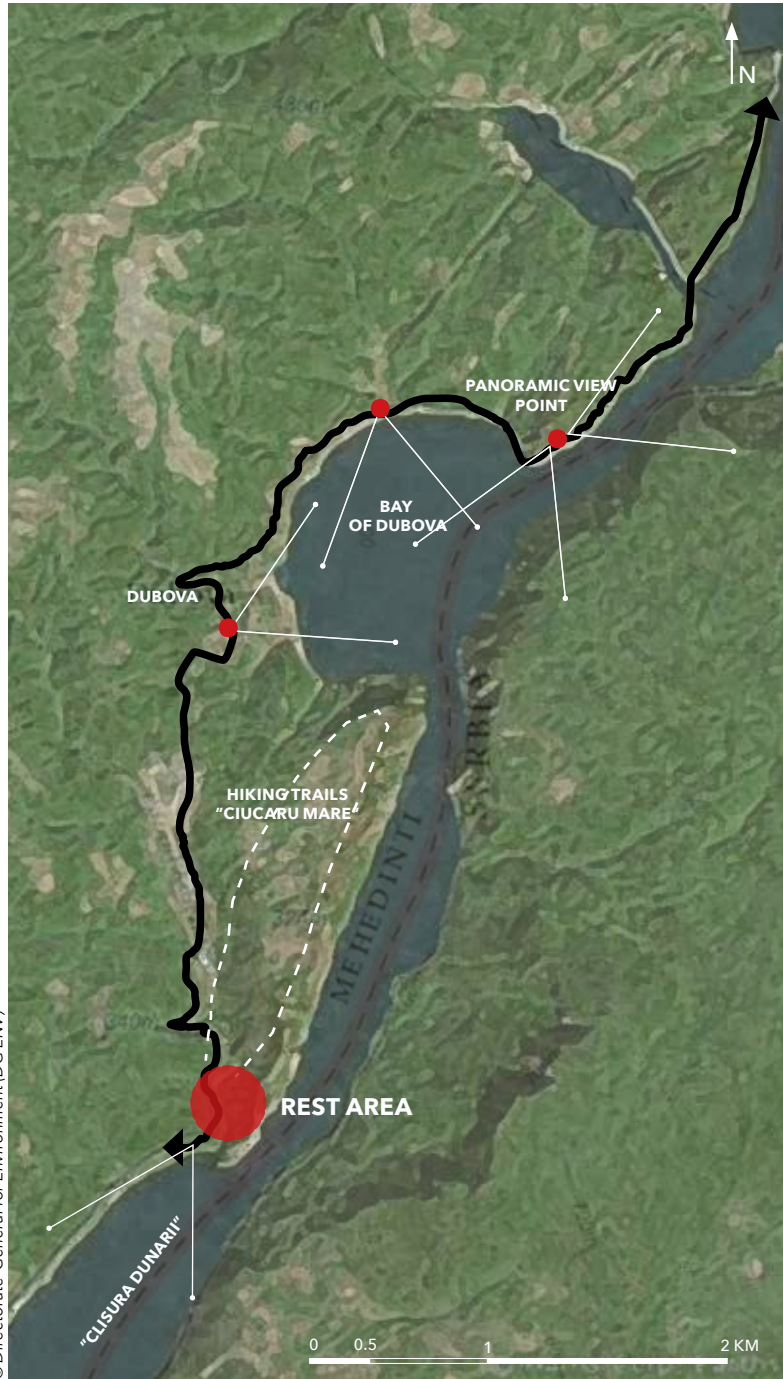


DUBOVA, NATIONAL ROAD NO 57
GPS > 44O37'11.16' ; 22O15'25.16"



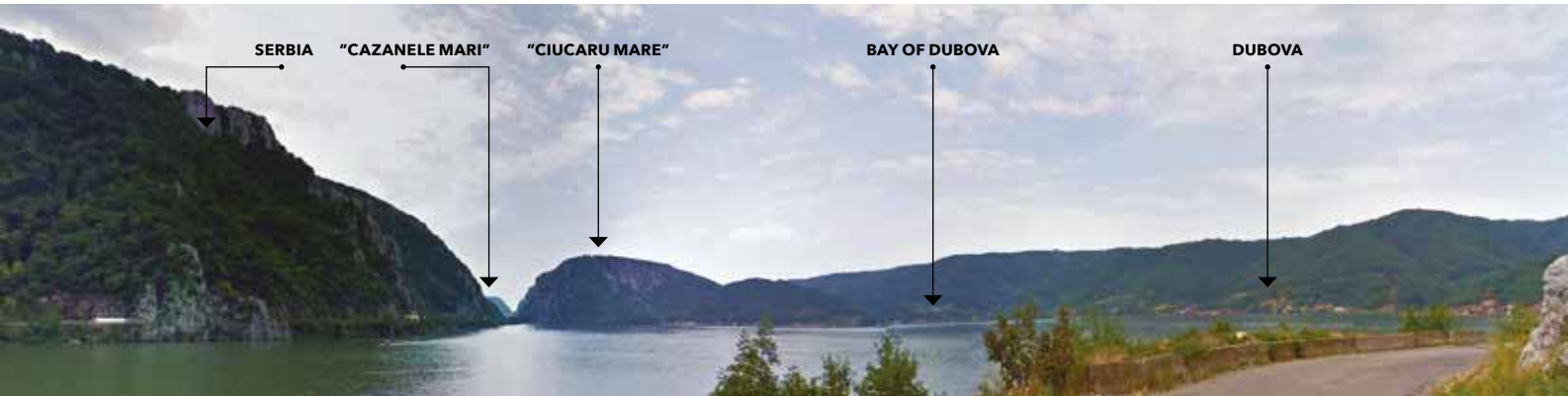
SITE DESCRIPTION

This intervention is taking into consideration the terrain topography of the Romanian Danube shore in the Cazanele Mari and Cazanele Mici area. Along the national road crossing Dubova village, the road guardrails should receive a wooden coverage that will strongly mark the new site set-up in terms of perception. This approach intends to differentiate the section placed between the south part of Ciucaru Mare Mountain and Mraconia Church from the other parts of DN57. A rest / picnic area can be created within the meadow placed west of Cicuaru Mare Mountain, right next to the road. Ciucaru Mare Mountain



is placed between the DN57 and the Danube River and is offering several outstanding hiking trails leading to scenic viewpoints over Cazanele Mari area. Therefore, along with the typical features of a road rest area this set-up will integrate a larger parking area and a minimal info-point (e.g. info boards) regarding the local places of interest, hiking trails, Dubova accommodation facilities, etc. On the slope of the mountain placed north-east to Dubova bay, a structure could be built in order to allow visitors to climb up and observe the surroundings, offering a bird's eye view perspective toward Cazanele Mari and Cazanele Mici. Nearby, a small parking area can be built in order to enable a safe stopping point. A landscape and urban planning regulation should be developed for the Dubova bay in order to manage the impact of built environment over the landscape and to offer different and interesting observation points in relation with the Danube River and the mountains.

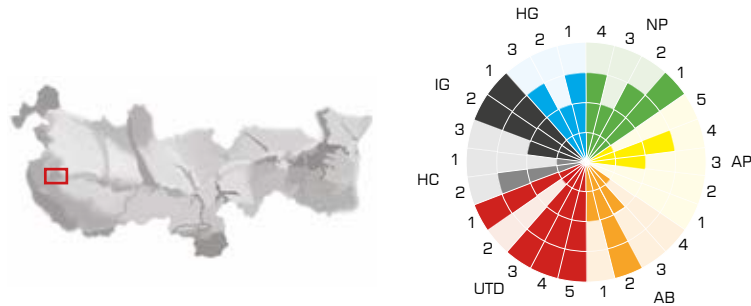
READING THE LANDSCAPE



GENERAL PROPOSALS







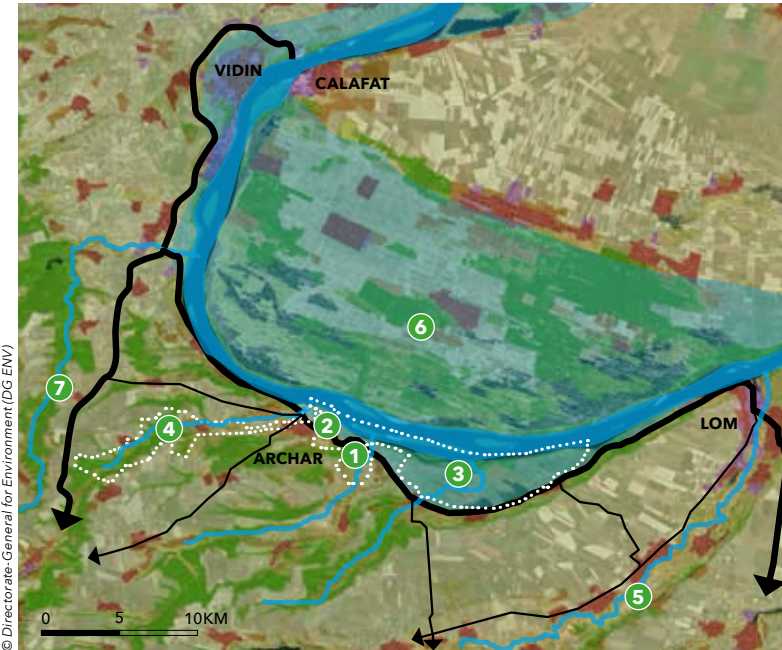
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Archar Waterfront is situated in the northwestern part of Bulgaria and is crossed by the road that passes along the Danube's riverbank and that links Lom in the East to Vidin in the North West. The principal landscape feature is a flat and open land covered by alluvial plains. In the past, the waterfront was covered by marshes and wetlands but during the 20th century, the area was drained in order to develop an intensive agriculture. The largest settlement is the Archar village, which is situated at the confluence of the Archar River with the Danube at almost 30 kilometres from Vidin. Archar village was known during the Roman Empire period as Colonia Ulpia Ratiaria and was a permanent basis of the Roman fleet. During the 2nd and 4th century, the city developed and became a craft and trading center. Colonia Ulpia Ratiaria reached its zenith during the reign of the emperor Aurelian when it became one of the main colony in the Moesia inferior province. Archaeological excavations between 1981 and 1991 found fully preserved walls, parts

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Archar Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI) 2/ Archar Plant Micro Reserve 3/ Orsoya Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI) 4/ Vartopski dol Natura 2000 Protected Site 5/ Lom river 6/ Ciuperceni-Desa Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI) 7/ Vidbol river



of buildings and potter items (bowls, pipes) together with old Roman coins. The archaeological site and its surroundings has been plundered several time during the 90's by treasure hunters.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activity in this area of approximately 4 000 inhabitants is intensive and subsistence agriculture. Since the fall of communism, the Archar village and its surroundings offer few economic opportunities to its local inhabitants and the population ageing trend is continuously increasing while depopulation can be noticed through the landscape of abandoned houses when crossing villages. The population is composed of 4 ethnic groups: the Bulgarian, Turkish, Romani and Koritarska (Kopantar) groups. The Koristarska or cradle-makers, as they were primarily associated with the production of cradle, are an Eastern Orthodox branch of the Romani people. Due to their close proximity with Romanian-speaking people since the 14th century, they usually lost the knowledge of the Romani language and they currently speak a distinct archaic dialect of Romanian, with borrowings from Slavic and Turkish languages. A major part of the Koristarka emigrated and the area's cultural diversity and traditions are slowly disappearing.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The area includes the Archar Natura 2000 site where over 30 protected species live and nest. We can mention here the Aral asp, the Ukrainian brook, the Black Sea herring or the Tawny pipit. If layout works would have been made, the other main attraction of this Landscape Unit would be the Colonia Ulpia Ratiaria site that is considered by the archaeologists as being the main Roman town in the area with a large military encampment situated on the hills that overlook the Danube. This site spreads on a surface of more than 30 ha and archaeological diggings are far to be completed but it seems that the town hosted the largest thermae (Roman bath) complex in the Balkans, an amphitheatre and a stadium. Since the mid 90's, the diggings in the area are mainly made by treasure hunters and the site is extremely damaged by these degradations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Plan and implement strict measures concerning site conservation and protection of Colonia Ulpia Ratiaria site and support the continuation of archaeological diggings
- 2>Invest in local infrastructure projects, especially regarding accessibility, and small leisure facilities linked with the Danube.
- 3> Promote local minority products and organic farming
- 4>Create historical heritage events near the site in order to raise awareness on its value.

THREATS

Flooding is one of the main challenges in the flatter and lower parts of the area. Economic development opportunities are not appearing in an area suffering from a low accessibility due to unmodernised transport infrastructure and from a continuous depopulation. Treasure hunting still continues and can permanently destroy this rich cultural heritage.



PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT ARCHAR, VIDIN



ARCHAR VILLAGE,
NATIONAL ROAD NO 11
GPS > 43°48'12.28"N ; 22°56'49.42"E

SITE DESCRIPTION

The chosen belvedere point is situated in the vicinity of Archar, a Bulgarian village situated on the Danube riverbanks. The surrounding hills covered with woods and meadows are providing a specific frame for a spectacular view towards two Danubian islands - Dovlek and Desa and towards the flat Romanian riverbank. The scenery is dominated by the Danube as the main landscape element and by the two islands. Moreover, this hilly region is rich of attractive places with a specific biodiversity and offers diverse sceneries. Indeed, the highest hills display several views over the Danube river through poplar trees that gives an impression of a landscape sliding along with the current. The site is an important place in the Danubian plain floristic region and is therefore part of the Bulgarian protected sites network for Plant Species. The Plant Micro-Reserve that protects the *Achillea ochroleuca* specie is threatened by sand extractions and should be better highlighted because of its scientific and landscape values.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



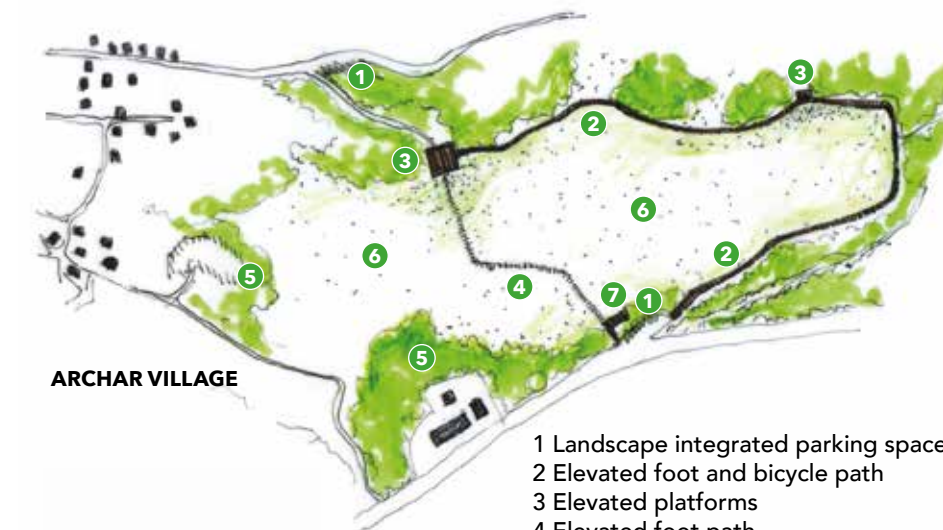
POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ *Achillea ochroleuca* protection site 2/ Irrigation channel
3/ Archar river 4/ Archar village

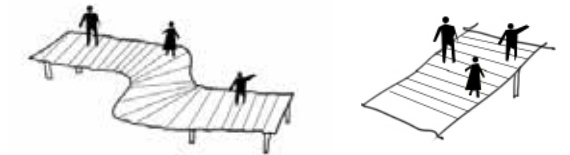


GENERAL PROPOSALS

> Create elevated platforms and foot and bicycle paths
> The main idea of the scenic viewpoint is to provide the opportunity to understand in a dynamic way an essentially static landscape.



- 1 Landscape integrated parking spaces
- 2 Elevated foot and bicycle path
- 3 Elevated platforms
- 4 Elevated foot path
- 5 Plantings for protection
- 6 Protected meadow
- 7 Picnic spot



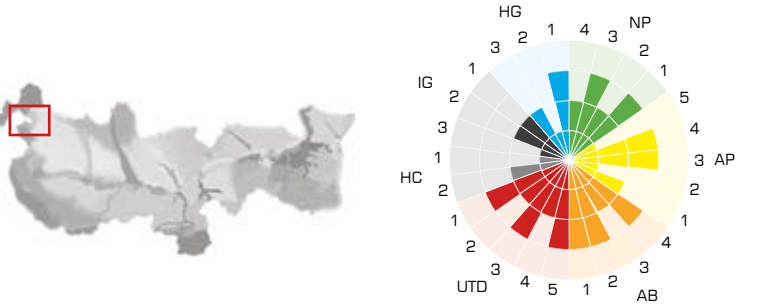
RECOMMENDATIONS

1>Create a landscaped parking place to restrict car access on site.
2>Development of a panoramic viewpoint for landscape observation by creating an elevated wood path and a elevated platform on the highest point.
2>Agreements with local authorities for further maintenance of the viewpoint site - waste management, maintenance of the facilities and of its vegetation
4>The region had economic and strategic importance in Roman times. The historical value of the site should be more exploited to contribute to the tourism development of Archar and of its near settlements. The belvedere will offer historical and cultural information on the area through its signage system.

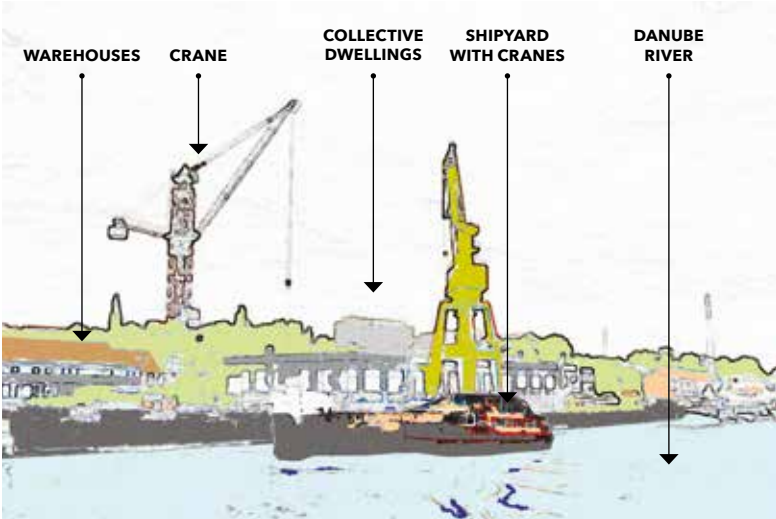


Archar village / VIDIN





READING THE LANDSCAPE

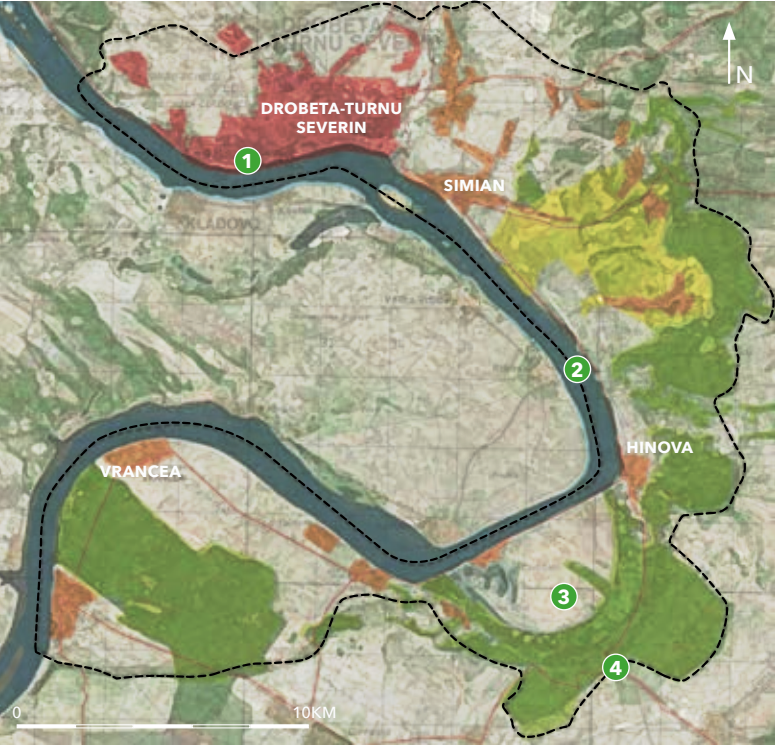


LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The city of Drobeta Turnu Severin has a long and rich history and was a strategic place since the Roman times. At the middle of the third century AD, it was spreading on almost 60 ha in the vicinity of the Drobeta fortress and its almost 40 000 inhabitants had equal rights as the citizens of Rome because of its administrative status. The city was mainly built and modernized in the 19th century. Large planned areas of individual and collective housing, squares and boulevards were developed following a urban grid planning. The right angle running of streets, the distinct system of squares and the iconic water tower designed by Eli Radu gave at that time visible signs of a rising and modern city. Indeed Drobeta’s was one of the major port on the Danube and one of the major industrial areas in the Eastern Romania. Topography is almost flat on both sides of the Danube which emphasizes

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Drobeta center and Roman bridge 2/ Hinova view 3/ Corb Ostrov 4/ Road to Starmina



Drobeta’s urban and industrial skyline. The whole landscape was designed in ordered to highlight the powerful curving of the Danube that impregnates the unit with a strong line force.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Formerly a prosperous economic centre for its shipyard, its energy and wood industries and its expertise in civil and electrical engineering, Drobeta is facing today the decline of its industrial activities and the raise of unemployment although a turn to a tertiary, commercial activity has recently contributed to revitalize the city center. The population decreased by 16 % between 2002 and 2011 and knows an ageing tendency. Nevertheless, the city tries to keep a strategic place on the Romanian landscape notably in the nuclear industry since the ROMAG-PROD complex near Drobeta produces the heavy water necessary to run the Cernavoda Plant and is also

one of its major worldwide exporter. Nevertheless, the city needs urgently to diversify its economy and to take profit of its strategic positioning.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The city of Drobeta Turnu Severin has a very rich cultural heritage with attractive sites from all eras. Some are worldly known as the remains of the Trajan’s bridge or the Roman fortress and others are landmarks of the successful past of the city when it played a important role in the country’s industrialisation and was considered as a cultural gateway for Romania. For instance the impressive Cultural Palace Theodor Costescu is named after the first director of one of the most prestigious school in the country, the Traian National College. The water tower is as well a distinctive feature of the city and a tribute to its urban grid planning. The traditional and folkloric heritage is also represented in the Iron Gates museum that exhibits collections in natural sciences, history, ethnography and art.

THREATS

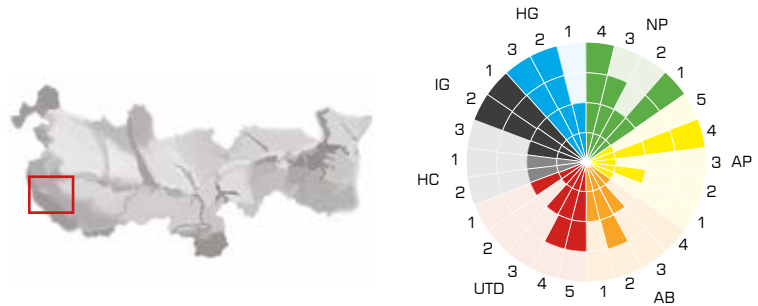
The increase of unemployment and the migration of qualified workers is a major threat for the city and also for the county. Tourism can be a key leverage of growth if it does not lead to a “museification” of Drobeta that would betray its identity as an economic and cultural centre.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1>To continue the local policy of modernization of public infrastructures and valorization of cultural heritage
2>Raise awareness about a Danubian Mehedinti landscape in order to promote initiatives, notably in tourism, with the city of Orsova and regarding especially the creation of common tourism products such as one day cruises, the development of accommodation capacity etc.
3>The promotion and branding of the city towards investors and tourist underlining a unique mix of culture and industrial innovation.
4>Development of Mice tourism since the city offers an opportunity for business seminars and leisure weekends.





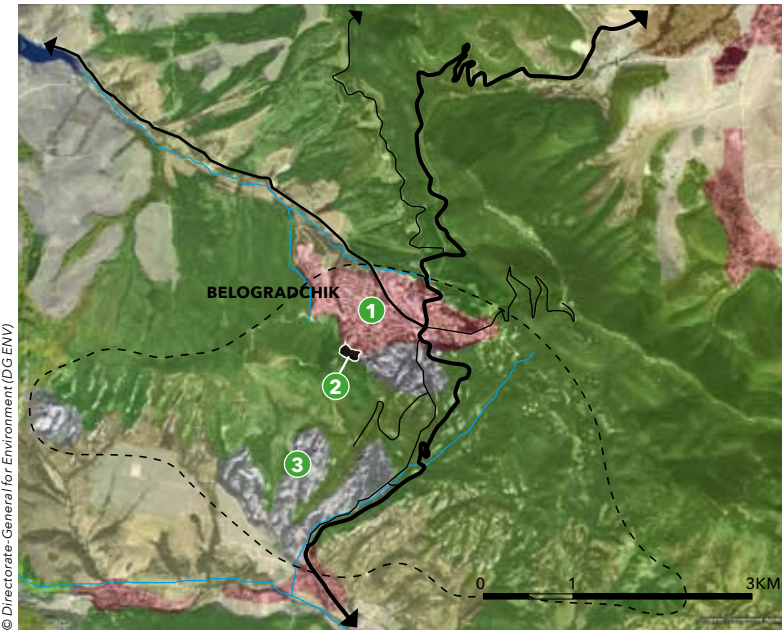
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Belogradchik Rocks site is situated in north western Bulgaria, in the western Stara Planina Mountains on the outskirts of the city of Belogradchik, and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The rocks complex spread from West to East of the Vedernik Mount around an area of over 50 square kilometres starting at the village of Rabisha and ending at the Belotintsi settlement. They form a unique landscape, with high red conglomerate rocks, several with a 200 metres height, with different shapes and separated by small valleys or caves. These sandy and loamy rocks have formed around 230 million years ago and have been overwhelmed by the sea. Sand, gravel and clay stratified on the rocks then grey and white marlstones formed a last stratum. Following the sea withdrawing, the erosion process destroyed parts of the marlstones and outcropped the today rocks' that enchant the visitors with their colours varying from red to yellow due to their ferruginous composition. The site is not unitary as the rock formations has spread into five groups, the central group being the

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Town of Belogradchik 2/ The Fortress 3/ The Belogradchik rocks



most important, with most of the landmarks and closer to the city. The group to the west is steeper and include Alpine rocks, while the group east of Belogradchik also hosts the Lipenik cave. Due to the site's maze pattern, the area constituted a natural strongpoint since ancient times.

The Roman period fortress was surrounded by the rocks, in order to take advantage of the natural stone walls, and remains until now a popular attraction and one of the most preserved strongholds in the country. The town of Belogradchik represents the main entry point to the area and is connected by a secondary road to the Vidin-Montana-Sofia route.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

This unit represents one of the most popular tourist destinations in Bulgaria. Tourists come to visit the natural site and the fortress ruins. The Belogradchik town is the main economic centre of the Landscape Unit, its name meaning small white town, in contrast to the red rocks complex. The main economic sectors are agriculture, timber industry and woodworking, engineering mainly for railway components, as well as a copper mining industry. The food producing industry is developed with wineries, soft drinks and bread/pasta products that have become parts of the tourism product. Indeed, tourism is the main economic activity as rural tourism activities are continuously increasing in the Belogradchik surroundings settlements.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

This Landscape Unit is considered as a natural wonder and an iconic area for the region but also for the entire country. The rock landmarks have several legends tied to them, most of them centred on the concept of nature stopping an evil act by turning the victims or the perpetrators to stones. The fortress has an interesting architecture as the site's environment provided natural stone walls for its builders, and as a result fortified walls were only built on the North West and South East sides during the Roman times. It was rebuilt during Ottoman times and was last used for military purposes during the Bulgaria-Serbia war in 1885. Another tourist site in the vicinity is the Magura cave, housing late Neolithic cave paintings unique in the Balkan Peninsula. The cave is 2.5 kilometres long and is situated near the Rabisha Lake, the largest inland freshwater lake in Bulgaria. The lake is popular for fishing enthusiasts, sheatfishes living in the lake can grow up to a weight of 300 kilograms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Strictly manage and enforce regulation concerning real estate development on the natural area outskirts
- 2>Increase the number of walking paths/bike trails/panoramic points by focusing on thematic trails network development
- 3>Improve site promotion through cultural, academic activities and sports events development
- 4>Create a Geopark that will also includes neighbouring areas to balance tourism flows and in the same time widen the protected area by adding adjacent rock formations

THREATS

Because of its popularity, the area could be affected by the fast and chaotic development of tourist facilities or damaged by disrespectful visitors.



PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT BELOGRADCHIK FORTRESS, VIDIN



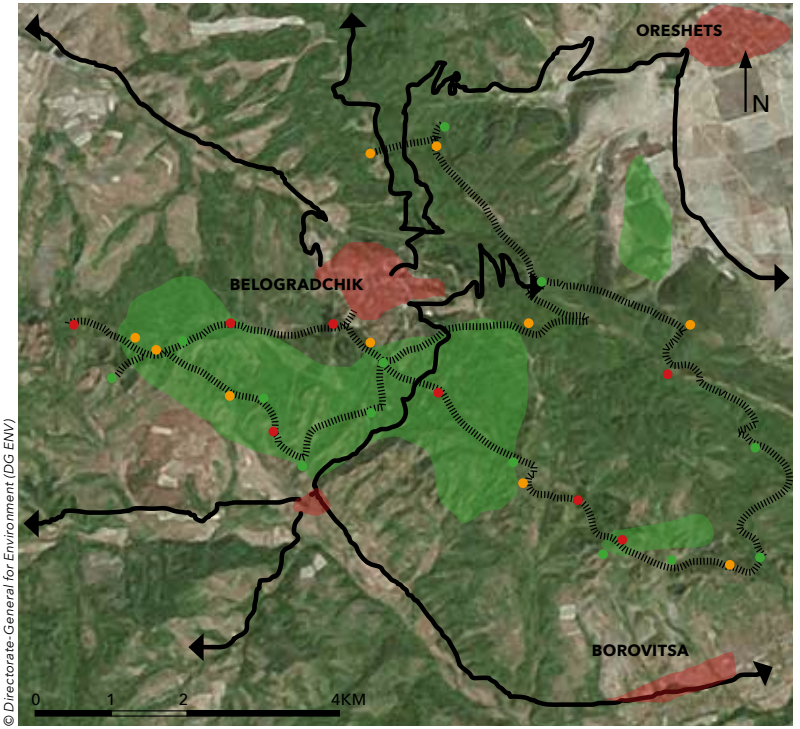
BELOGRADCHIK CITY,
GPS > 43°06'22.77" ; 22°06'27.68"

SITE DESCRIPTION

When you enter the Belogradchik Rocks formation, the first impression is a mix of surprise and admiration for this very strange, unusual and charming scenery. All around you, there are «red stony mushrooms» coming out of the mountain's forest. Small ones, big ones, every mushroom has its own shape and personality. The biggest, highest and most famous group of rocks can be found in the city of Belogradchik and was transformed by the Romans in a fortress that has been used along the centuries as a key surveillance point by the different rulers of the region.

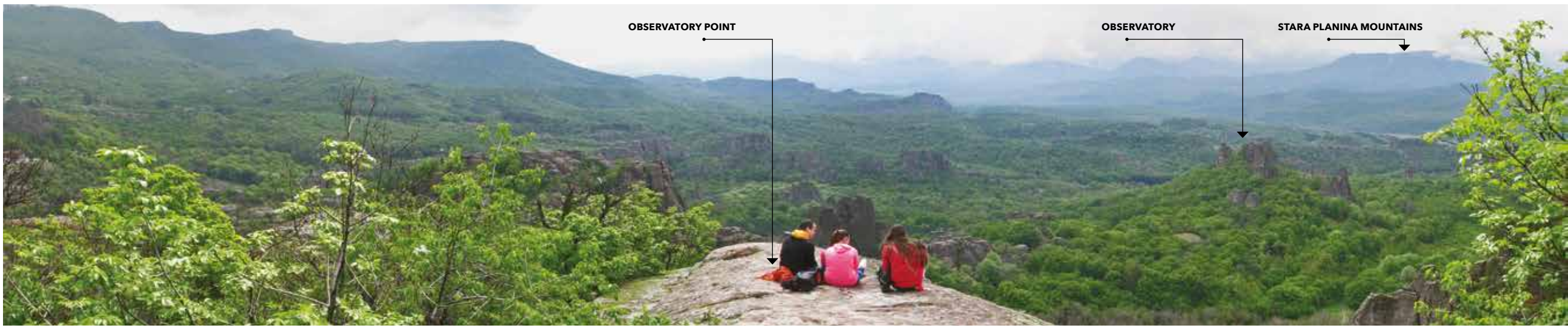


From the citadel, an amazing 360 view on the Stara Planina



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READING THE LANDSCAPE



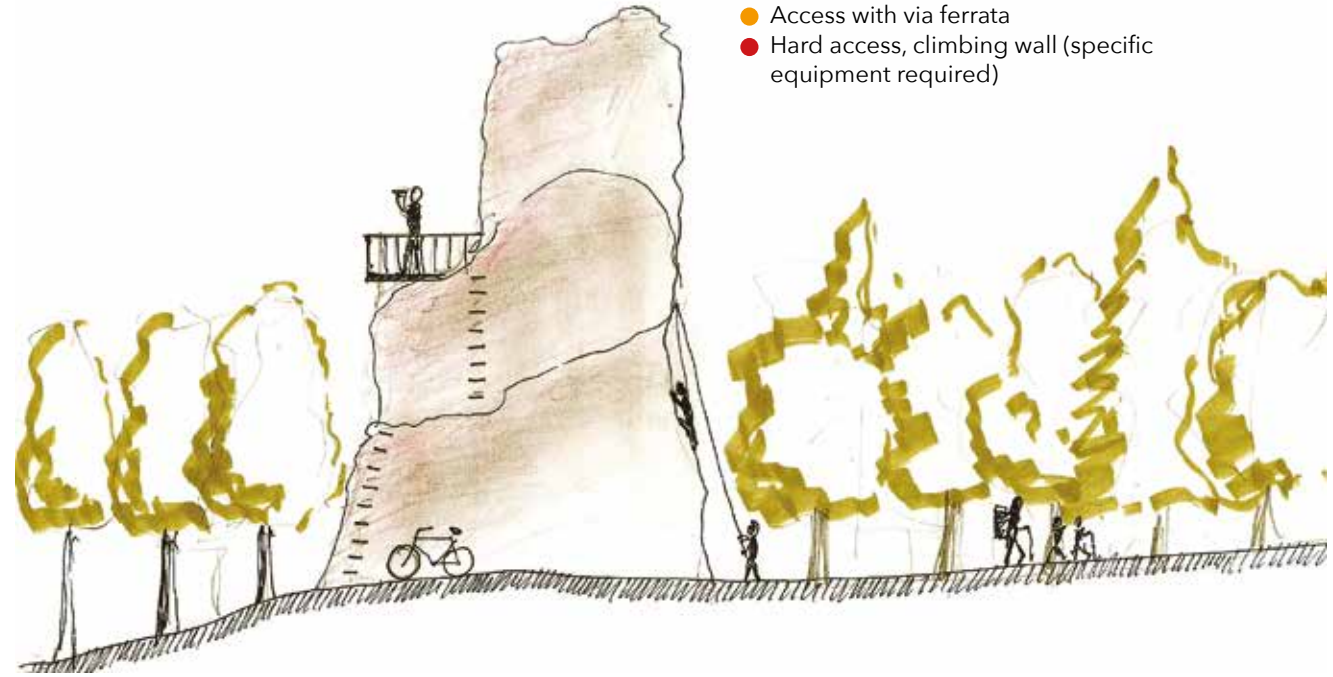
GENERAL PROPOSALS

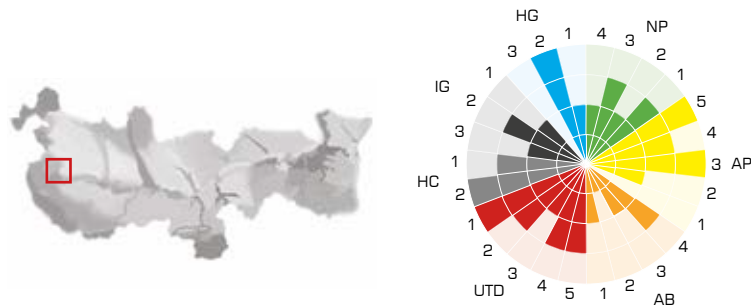
While the fortress of Belogradchik is a powerful tourist-magnet, the rest of the «red mushroom mountain» seems poorly highlighted. Many of these rocks could be accessible as scenic viewpoints if part of a network of paths that could be used by pedestrians and cyclists. The objective would be to offer 2 or 3 different trails, requiring between 2/3 hours or the whole day, giving the tourists the choice of the length and difficulty of the tour. Instead of staying 2 hours in the city, this would encourage people to stay at least a full day and to stay overnight in the city before continuing their excursion in the Stara Planina mountains.



■■■■■■■■ A pedestrian and bicycle thematic path to connect chosen interesting rocks and create a network of panoramic viewpoints. The rocks will be classified in three categories:

- Easy access, without special skills
- Access with via ferrata
- Hard access, climbing wall (specific equipment required)





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

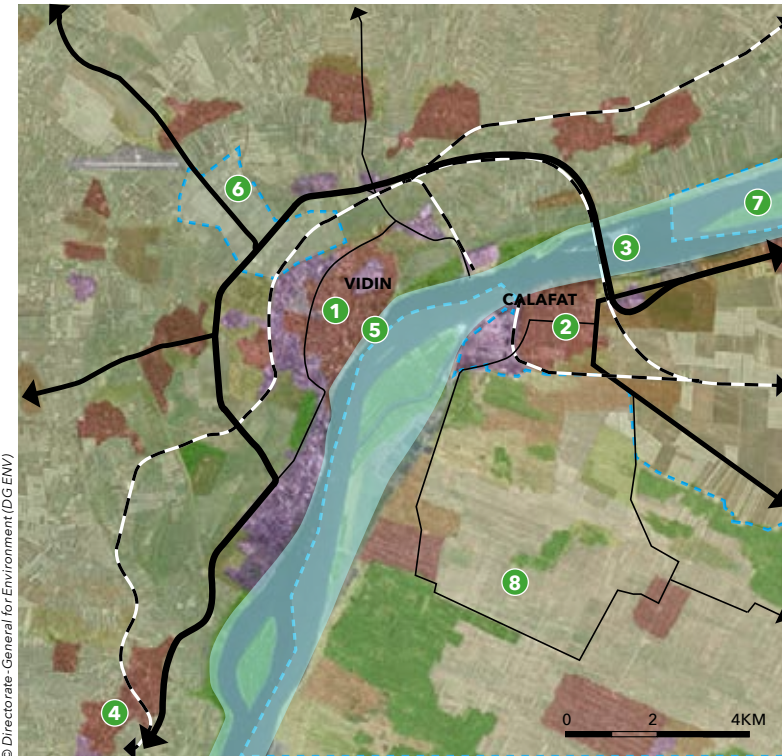
The twin cities of Vidin and Calafat are situated on the Danube banks and have always been an important crossing point across the Danube river. The area is today the junction point between the Pan-European corridors VII, the Danube River, and IV that links Germany to Greece and Turkey. Due to their strategic positioning, the twin cities are, since 2013, connected by the New Europe Bridge, a 1900 meters gateway that changed the area's landscape. Vidin is situated in the north-western part of the Bulgarian Danubian Plain on the lowest terrace of the Vidin Valley with an average altitude of 30-35 meters and low slopes, between 0.5 to 3-4 %, in its north and north-eastern part. The city's streets and buildings have a typical semi-circular orientation towards the river. The city of Calafat municipality is situated at a very low level as well on the Ciuperceni Plain, a subunit of the Bailești plain. The area is inhabited since ancient times. For example, Vidin is situated on an old Celtic settlement site, Dunonia, founded in the 3rd century BC and fortified during the Romans rule.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Vidin 2/ Calafat 3/ «New Europe» Bridge over the Danube
4/ Dunavtsi 5/ Baba Vida Fortress 6/ Orizishteto Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI) 7/ Ostrov Golya Natura 2000 Protected Site (SPA) 8/ Ciuperceni - Desa Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI)



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Vidin was an important port city and agricultural centre since the Roman times while Calafat was a small fishermen's settlement that started to develop in the middle of the 19th Century through the expansion of its grain port. The main economic activities in Vidin are trade and processing of agricultural products with dairy production, spirits and wines distilleries and also meat processing. The city of Calafat had a similar profile at a lower scale and has now only one large company in the textile sector. Both cities did not recover from the economic transition period and from the 2008 economic crisis. Even the opening of the new bridge did not have the expected benefits as almost no new investments have been attracted in the area and the cities still do not have the necessary infrastructure in order to be considered as a cross border intermodal node.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Vidin is a typical Danubian centre with a long and tumultuous history. The main cultural heritage in this Landscape Unit is the famous Baba Vida fortress with its 13 gates and its stone walls. We can notice also the mausoleum of Antim I, the synagogue or the churches of St. Panteleimon and St. Petka with their beautiful mural paintings and beautiful parks such as the Danube Park. Calafat is well-known for its Art museum, for the impressive orthodox church of St Nicolas and for the Bascov Danubian beach. The city is also scattered by several parks and historical monuments that recall the 1877 Independence war and is situated in the vicinity of Natura 2000 areas such as the Calafat-Ciuperceni-Danube area, a floodplain scattered by sand dunes and valleys.

THREATS

The area is subject to regular floods but the main threat is the important depopulation trend, especially in Vidin, a city that lost almost half of its inhabitants since the fall of communism.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1>A joint economic development strategy must be developed and implemented at a cross border level with a focus on the tourism field in order to take advantage of the new bridge, to create a twin-city scale market and to slow down the depopulation trend.



The new bridge



Fishermen bridge - Calafat

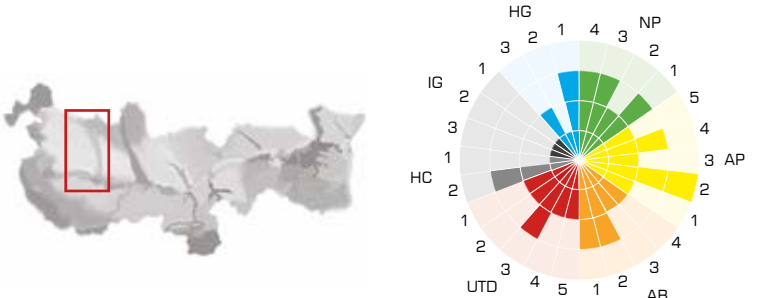


The abandoned synagogue of Vidin

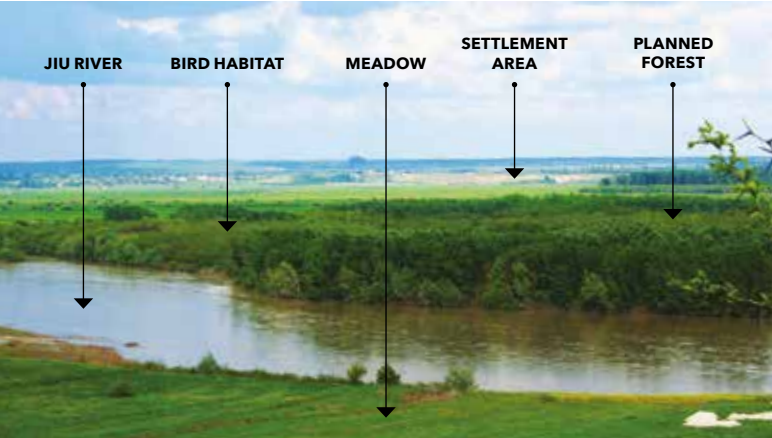


Baba Vida Fortress





READING THE LANDSCAPE

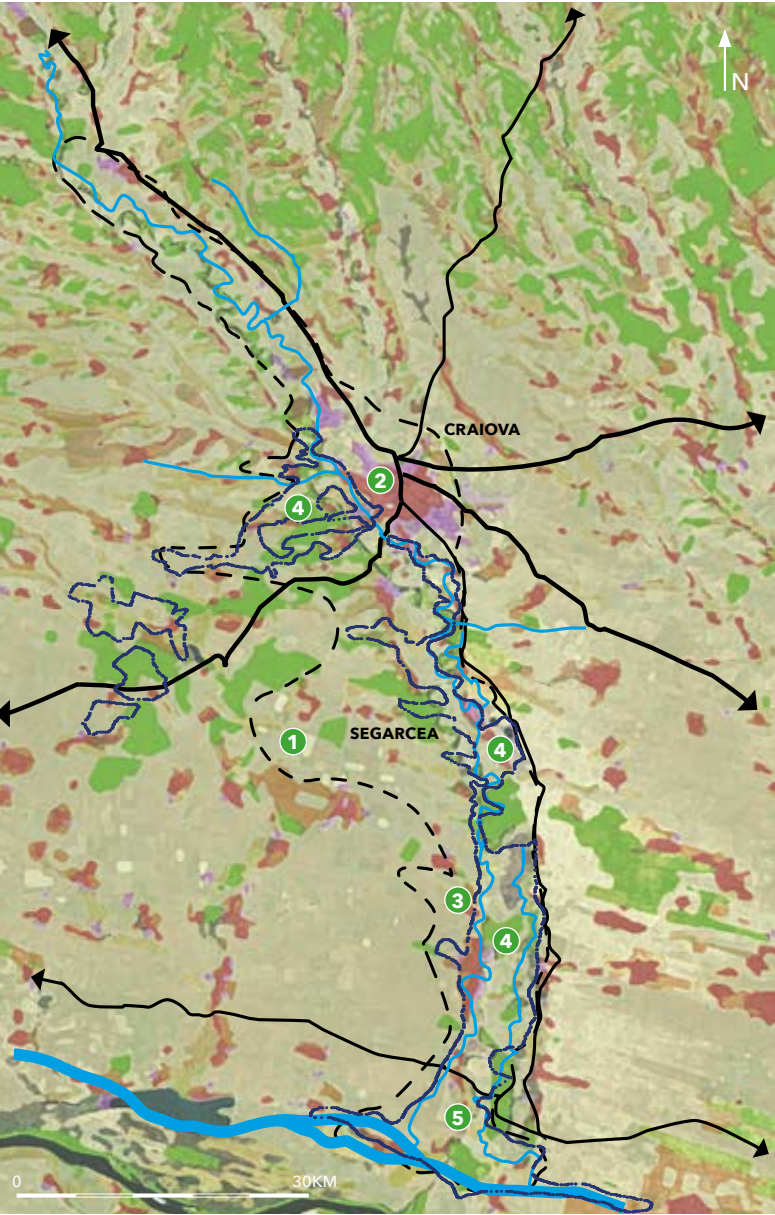


LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Jiu corridor is located in the southern part of Dolj county, along the lower course of the Jiu river, in the central-southern part of the Oltenia plain. The Landscape Unit crosses three continental biogeographical regions: the Getic Plateau, the Gavanu-Burda plains and the Romanian Silvestepa plain. It offers a complex landscape carved by the Danube river with several meandering floodplains, flat horizontal fields specific to the plain and, to a lesser extent, small hills with low slopes. The area includes one of the rarest and most representative relics of a slightly altered European meadow. The climate of the region is temperate-continental with a Mediterranean influence, which can be remarked through the surprising mix of rare sub-Mediterranean plant species with Central European ones. We can also notice the presence of still unspoiled fragments of specific forests located at the disjuncture points of biogeographical areas such as the beech islands of Dalga, Tuglui or Bucovat. The landscape of the main routes, which run along the site, DN66 (Nova Scotia-Filiași), DN6 (Craiova-Filiași), DN55 (Craiova-Bechet), is often dominated by the large industrial facilities located around the city of Craiova.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Segarcea vineyards 2/ Craiova city 3/ Valea Stanciului 4/ Jiu Corridor Natura 2000 Protected Site 5/ Jiu-Danube confluence Natura 2000 Protected Site



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The economic activities in the area are mainly linked to agriculture, livestock farming, oil extraction, bee-keeping, wood industry and viticulture as in the Segarcea area. Craiova is the main urban centre for trade, industry and services in the Dolj county and in the entire Oltenia region. Despite the fact that Craiova remains a University centre, its population has decreased due to the city de-industrialisation in the aeronautic or rail sector for example. Tourism is not enough proposed and used as an alternative tool to support the rural areas’ development while the potential for nature, fishing and wine tourism are important. The main target can be in a first step to become a weekend destination for the Craiova inhabitants and not just a one day visit area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

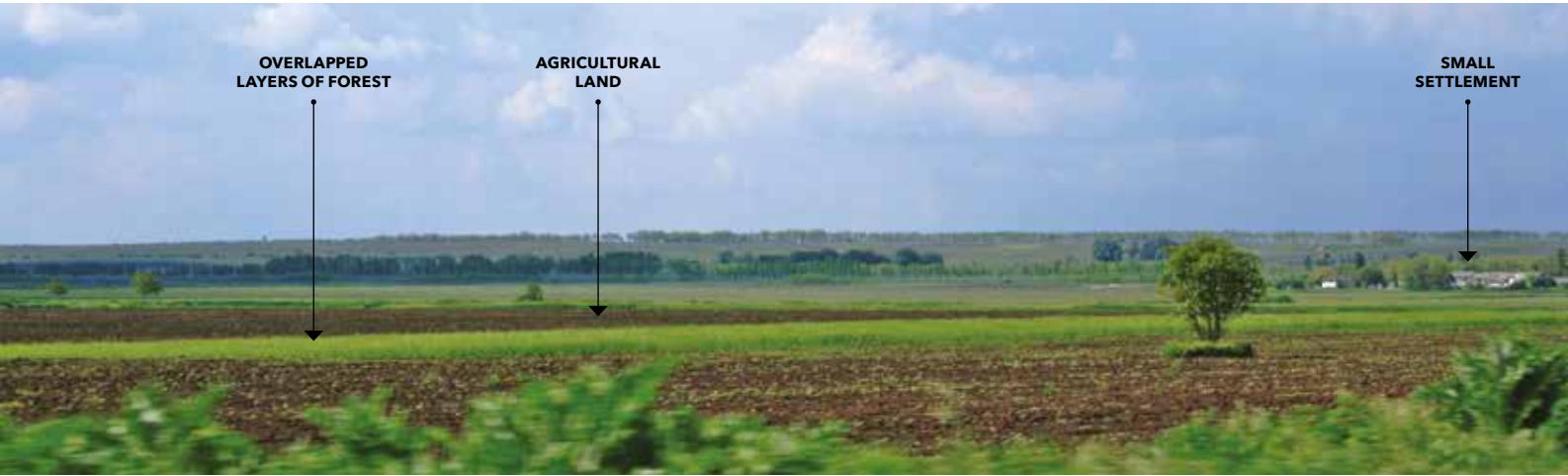
Several archaeological sites (settlements, necropolises) can be visited such as the one situated in the village of Almaj, dating from the early Bronze age or the Geto-Dacic fortified settlement of “Pelenoava” in the Carligei village. The toponym seems to be a compound word, with the first component derived from the presumptive indo-european word “peled-” meaning wet or stream that was related to the Jiu river meadow and the second one is the Dacian word “dava” (or deva) meaning town or village. Another important site is the Bucovat palaeontological nature reserve where some unknown species of molluscs have been discovered. The main monuments and churches to visit are the Jitianu Monastery in Podesti, the House of Baniei which is also Mihail Viteazu Memorial House, and the Church of St. Nicholas in Filiasi. Many traditional rural celebrations are organized throughout the year and especially in autumn with the “Days of Harvest”, “The Grapes Ball” or the “Wine Feast”.

THREATS

The main threats to the area’s natural heritage are linked to intensive grazing, poaching, an excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides and a not sufficiently controlled urbanisation process around the city of Craiova.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1> Enhancement of the flood prevention policies and infrastructures
- 2> Enhancement of the construction control process in the rural areas undergoing a quick urbanisation
- 3> Support agriculture on sloppy areas
- 4> Develop thematic trails in the area such as a wine route, a bird watching itinerary, a cultural route.



RURAL PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT JIU TERRACE, DOLJ



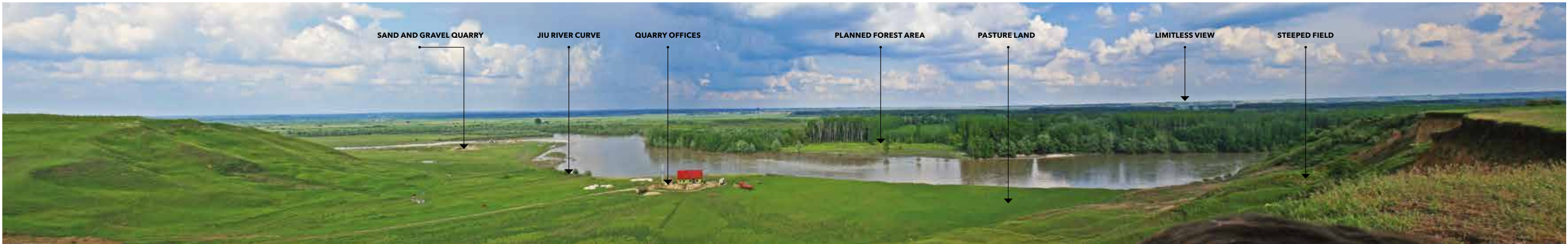
VALEA STANCIULUI MUNICIPALITY,
COMUNAL ROAD NO 561B
GPS > 44O00'20.63"N ; 23O52'30.26"E

SITE DESCRIPTION

Along the Jiu valley, we can discover several meandering floodplains highlighted by the diversified relief. Between Padea and Valea Stanciului, the 561B communal road offers an open panorama of the valley, with lacustrine forests and grazing areas. Some of the bare slopes are in a process of erosion and need to be planted. A sand and gravel quarry notifies the anthropization of this area.



READING THE LANDSCAPE



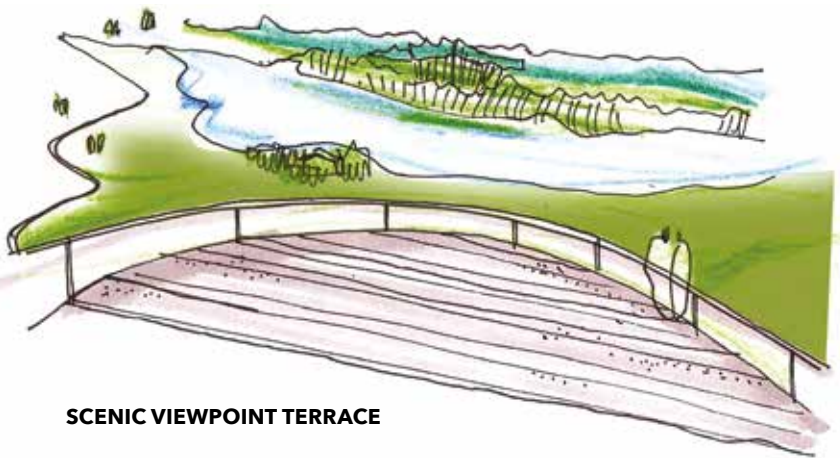
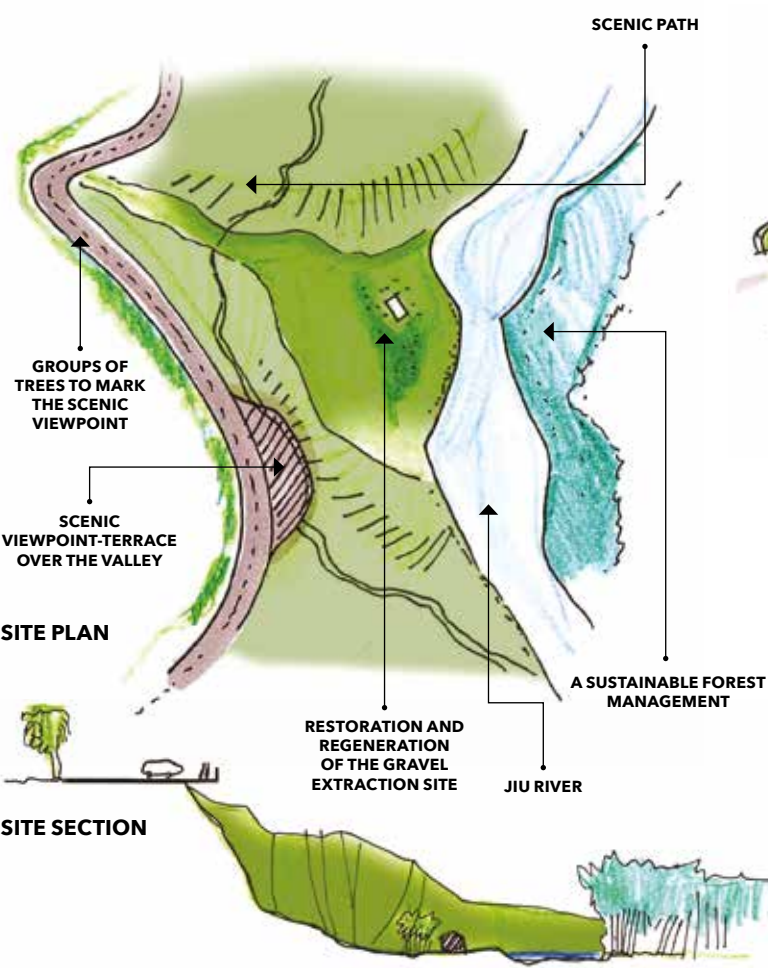
POINTS OF INTEREST AND ACCESSIBILITY

1/ Jiu river 2/ Scenic viewpoint 3/ Forest 4/ Precipitous field



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GENERAL PROPOSALS



SCENIC VIEWPOINT TERRACE

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1> Preserve the natural ecosystems of the river, the inland marsh and the forested areas, in order to support the development of a dynamic landscape
- 2> Promote a sustainable grazing policy with private and public local stakeholders (create a local management plan for grazing)
- 3> Limit car access in the area and create a green parking area
- 4> Stabilize slopes through special plantation
- 5> Consider this area as an open air natural garden, providing access to education and raising awareness on ecosystem services
- 6> Develop a recreational path in the area with natural materials: wood, stone...
- 7> Replace the existing guardrail with a wooden guardrail.
- 8> Place information boards that detail the area's ecosystems and habitats.

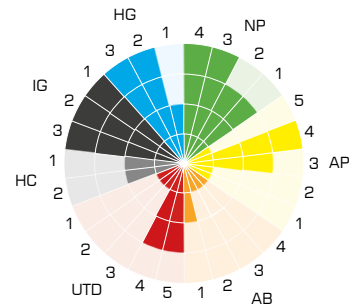


open fields

valley

Biodiversity hotspot 10 km away
from Craiova / DOLJ

Crataegus sp.



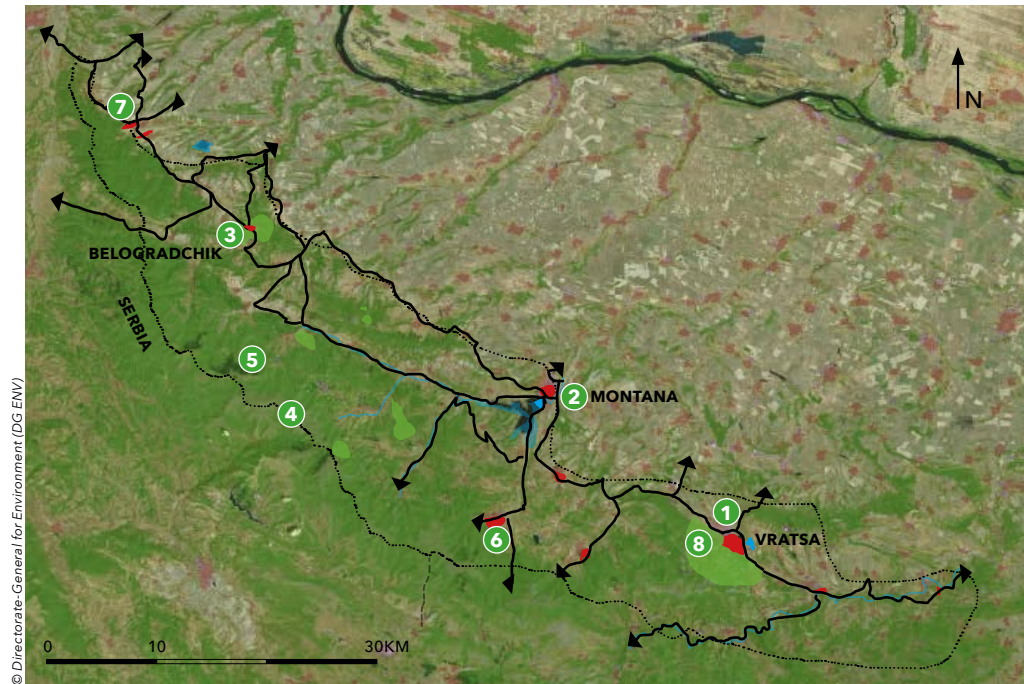
POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Vratsa 2/ Montana 3/ Belogradchik 4/ Midzor peak 5/ Chuprene Unesco biosphere reserve 6/ Berkovitsa 7/ Rakovitsa 8/ Ledenika caves and Vratsa plateau

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Stara Planina (literally « Old Mountain”) mountain range covers most of the central part of Bulgaria, starting near the Black Sea coast in the East and spreading towards Serbia in the West, where it forms a natural border with the neighbouring country. The Stara Planina are part of the Balkan range, being known in ancient times under the name of Haemus. The length of the Western Stare Planina massif is of 190 km with a width that varies between 15 and 50 km. This landscape unit covers the segment that ranges from the Belogradchik rocks to the Botevgrad

READING THE LANDSCAPE



pass and has an average altitude of approximately 850 meters that decreases near the Botevgrad saddle. The massif's northern slopes are steep, highly eroded and carved by the crossing rivers such as the Lom, Ogosta, Barzija, Botunja and their tributaries, while the southern slopes are elongated and terraced as they are lowering towards flat plain.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Over 60% of the Landscape Unit is covered by mountains while agricultural land represents about 30% of its surface. Around 70% of the agricultural land is composed of meadows and pastures and 30% is used for crop growing, vineyards, and fruit plantations. Therefore, agriculture, forestry, livestock farming and hunting are the main economic sectors. The massif area is sparsely populated with larger cities situated at its foot such as Montana, Vratsa and Rakovitsa that have more a diversified economic fabric. Nevertheless, these cities have suffered from a strong de-industrialisation process after the fall of communism and are in a continuous depopulation trend. More than 27% of the area's agricultural land is inventoried as abandoned and this worrying trend is not limited to its highest parts. The development of sustainable tourism appears therefore as one of the main tool to develop local economies and to maintain a population in the area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

This Landscape Unit is famous for its wildlife and especially for its rich flora. The Chuprene protected area is listed as an Unesco biosphere reserve and was established to preserve its specific northern



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Implement a strong forest management to better organize and monitor logging activities.
- 2>Support the creation of a network of rural accommodations, develop sustainable tourism facilities, especially active tourism ones, and promote educational and scientific activities
- 3>Develop a local label for agricultural and livestock farming products.

coniferous forests. The town of Varshets, located at the foot of the massif, was founded around a mineral spring and is the oldest spa resort in Bulgaria. It was already mentioned in Byzantine chronicles dating from the 6th century AD under the name of Medeca (medicinal). The Klisurski Monastery of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, established in the 13th century, is situated nearby Vrashets and is well known for its holy spring in the yard of the monastery complex, whose water is believed to have healing powers.

THREATS

Illegal or intensive logging is damaging the natural assets of an area that needs urgently to implement strong policies to tackle the challenges of a low economic activity and of a strong depopulation trend.



PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT THE «BALOVA SCHUMA» MEMORIAL COMPLEX, MONTANA

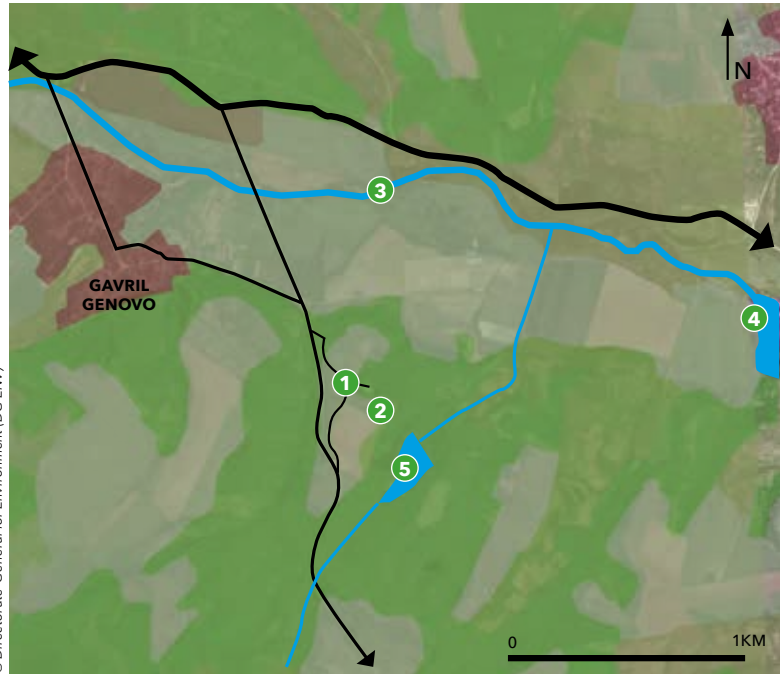


GHEORGI DAMEANOVO COMMUNE
DISTRICT ROAD NO 815
GPS > 43O23'11.19" ; 23O04'54.56"

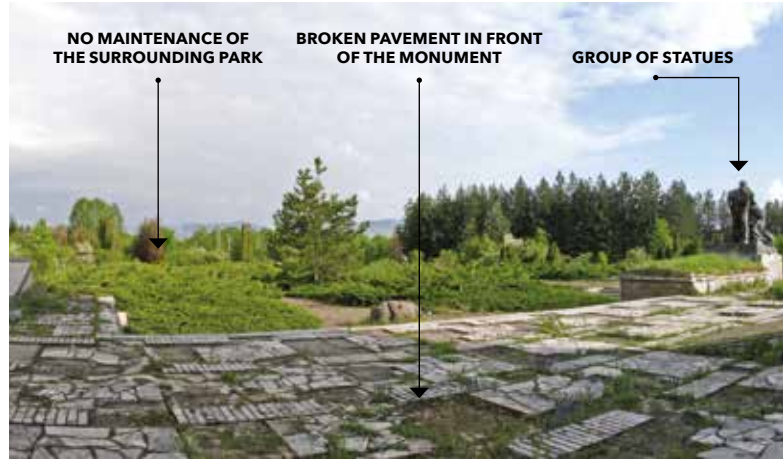


POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ The «Balova Schuma» memorial complex 2/ The monument
3/ Ogosta river 4/ Ogosta lake 5/ Balova Schuma lake

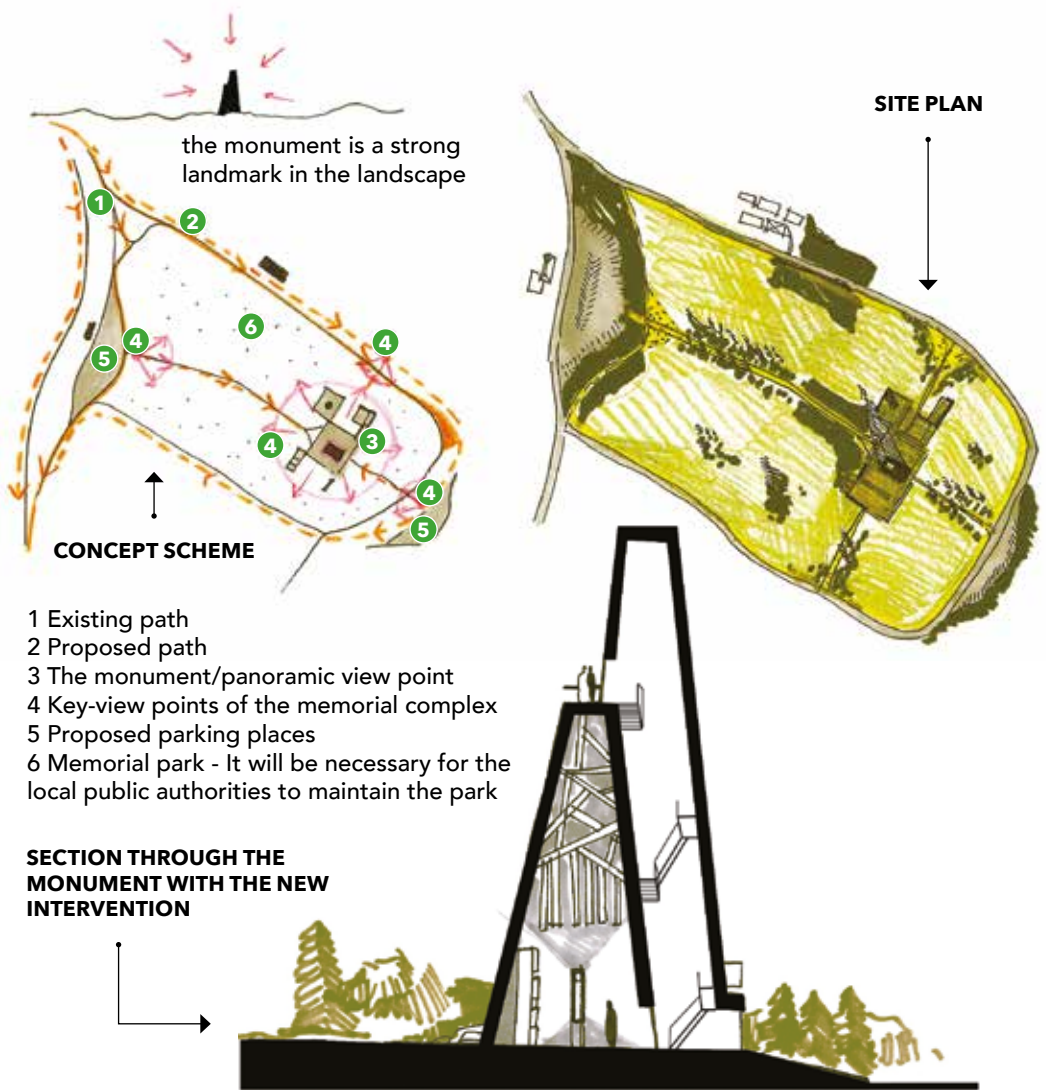


READING THE LANDSCAPE



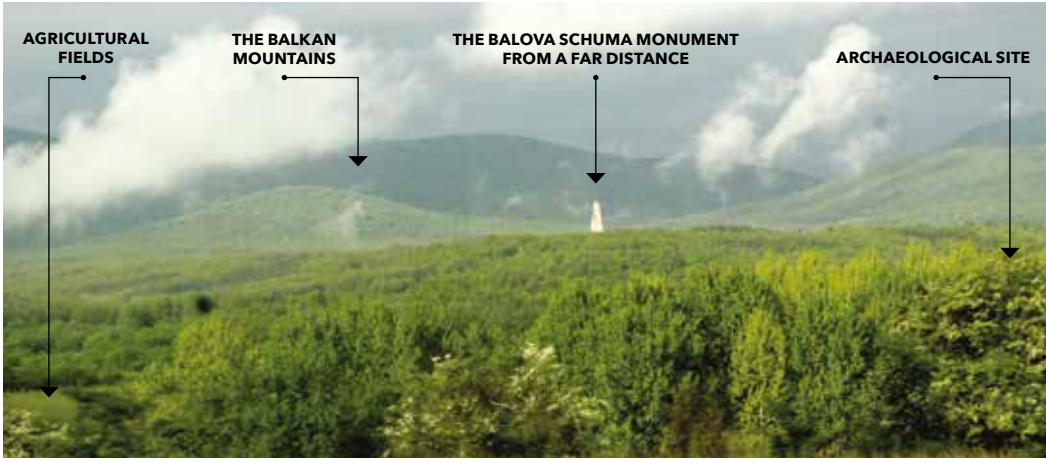
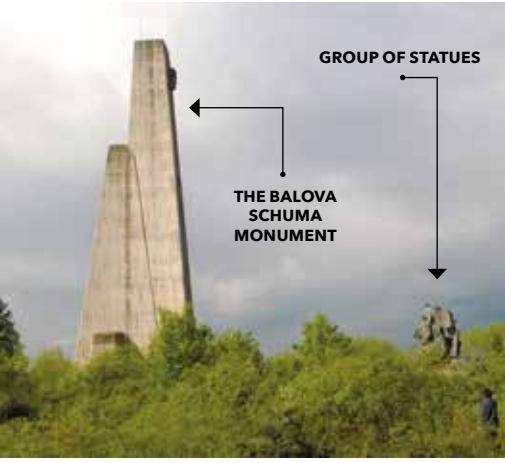
GENERAL PROPOSALS

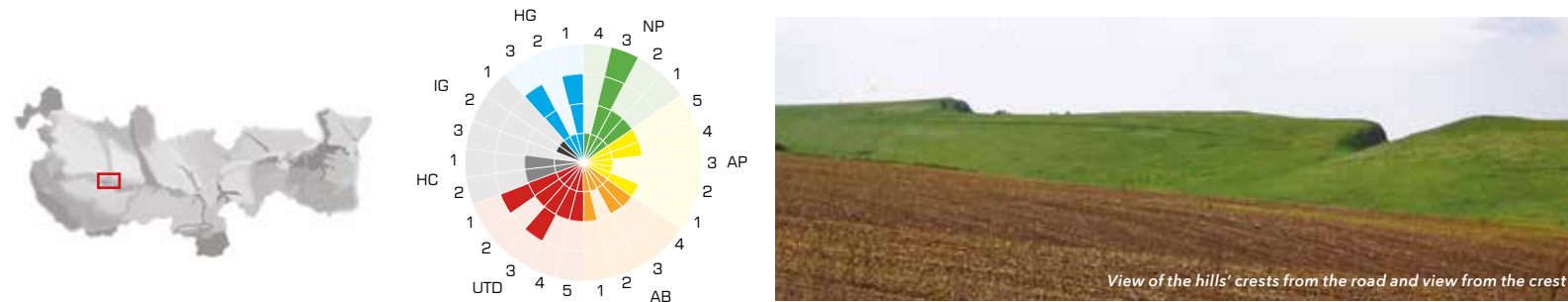
There will be small interventions of landscape design on the park area surrounding the memorial complex. The main challenge will be to build a terrace on top of the monument. Beside this strong symbolic gesture, the new panoramic viewpoint will turn this abandoned monument into a functional and attractive one.



SITE DESCRIPTION

There are more than one hundred important monuments in Bulgaria dating from the communist period. Symbols of the former political propaganda, some of these monuments are impressive works of architecture and art. Built usually with concrete and steel, the monuments were overscaled in order to impress and to be perfectly visible in the landscape. Nowadays these monuments are forgotten and slowly swallowed up by nature, as they are considered as ruins of a past that a majority of the inhabitants want to forget. The «Balova Schuma» memorial complex near Montana is a strong and visible presence in the area. The surrounding park could easily become a tourist attraction if restored and well maintained. More generally, the monuments built between 1945-1989 are often neglected and even not classified as their exact number is still unknown. They ought to be considered as heritage monuments, protected and renovated.

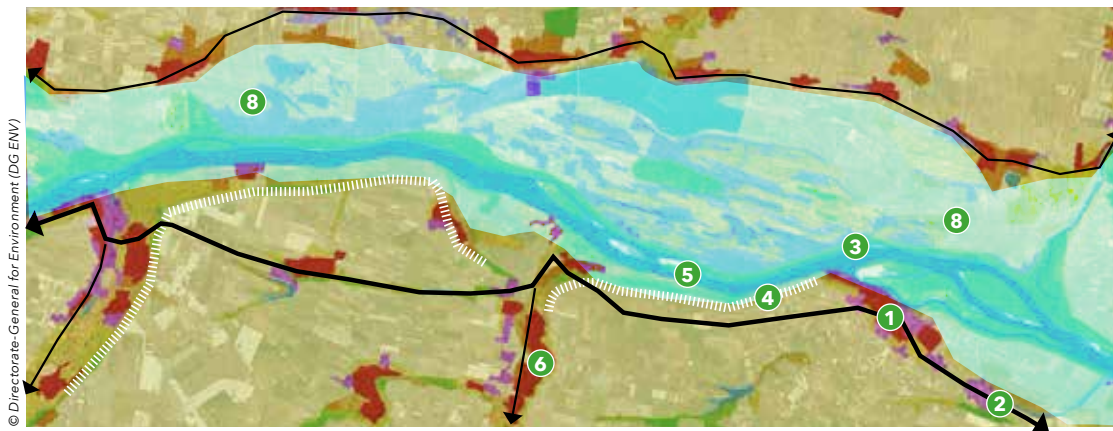




LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Kozloduy-Lom waterfront Landscape Unit offers one of the most beautiful bird eye's views of the Danube in the Bulgarian cross border area. The area forms a natural amphitheatre with its high hills overlooking the Danube. A forested area located near the riverbank hosts the Dolno Linevo Natura 2000 site. The landscape main features are agricultural land with grains and vegetables growing, orchards, vineyards and tobacco, low forest on the steep slopes with maples, ash-trees, elm-

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1/ Kozloduy 2/ Nuclear power plant 3/ Danube valley 4/ Local road
5/ Crest with viewpoints 6/ Zlatia village 7/ Lom



trees, hazels, lime-trees, oaks and acacias and bottom lands with mainly willows and poplars. The types of soils gradually evolve from alluvial ones, to sandy loess ones then to loess ones as we moved away from the Danube shore. The main cities of the Landscape Unit, Lom and Kozloduy, are situated on the western and eastern limit of the area and are linked by a road that follows the river bank and cross smaller settlements that have preserved local architecture. Kozloduy is well known for its nuclear power plant and for its Danube Island, the largest one on the Bulgarian riverside.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The port city of Lom is an important transport hub for Bulgarian northwestern region as it is situated at the crossroads of the European corridors IV and VII. Lom's port is the second largest one on the Bulgarian Danube riverside. Intensive agriculture is still the main economic activity with a developed food processing industry and with the recent appearance of large modern farms even if the irrigation system is continuously decaying. The local production is more and more exported towards the Romanian market. The other important economic sectors are machine and vehicle building and textile. The area includes also peat bogs and quarries of clay that was used for the production of bricks and roof tiles. These quarries are currently closed. The city of Kozloduy has developed thanks to its nearby nuclear power plant that attracted a qualified work force earning very high salaries for the region. Nevertheless, the city suffers from a high unemployment rate due to the lack of economic activities apart from the energy sector. Tourism can represent an alternative source of income in an area with rich natural and cultural assets. Niche tourism products such as fishing, bird watching, or cycling can easily be created and can contribute to the rural area development.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The area includes several natural sites such as the Reka Lom site, situated on the Lom river that crosses Kozloduy, the Dolno Linevo site located in its western part or the Tsibar and Zlatiyata sites in its vicinity. The Zlatiyata site is home to over 50 protected bird species, like the

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>To develop a network of belvedere points in order to take advantage of the hilly relief.
- 2>To create cycle trails and footpaths along the Danube river and support the development of rural accommodations.
- 3>To promote organic farming and the creation of high value local food brands

sparrow hawk, the kingfisher, the mallard or the purple and grey heron. The remains of the Roman period castrum of Regianum can be visited in Kozloduy. The city of Lom is well know for the Plazha, a wide beach of 500 meters long on the Danube banks and for the preserved ruins of the Roman fortress of Almus. The city also hosts the oldest community centre in Bulgaria, Postoyanstvo, where are organized numerous cultural events that preserve and promote local customs and traditions.

THREATS

The settlements situated in the low floodplain are regularly threatened by floods during the spring. The main challenge is demographic as the area is suffering from the constant aging of the population, the migration towards large cities and a low birth rate.





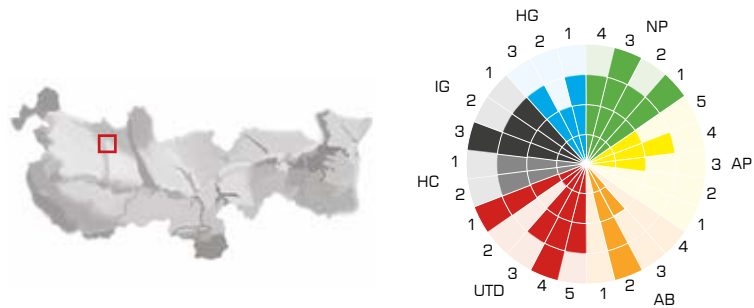
Romanian poplar forests

floodplain

Route

Parcels with orchards
and vineyards

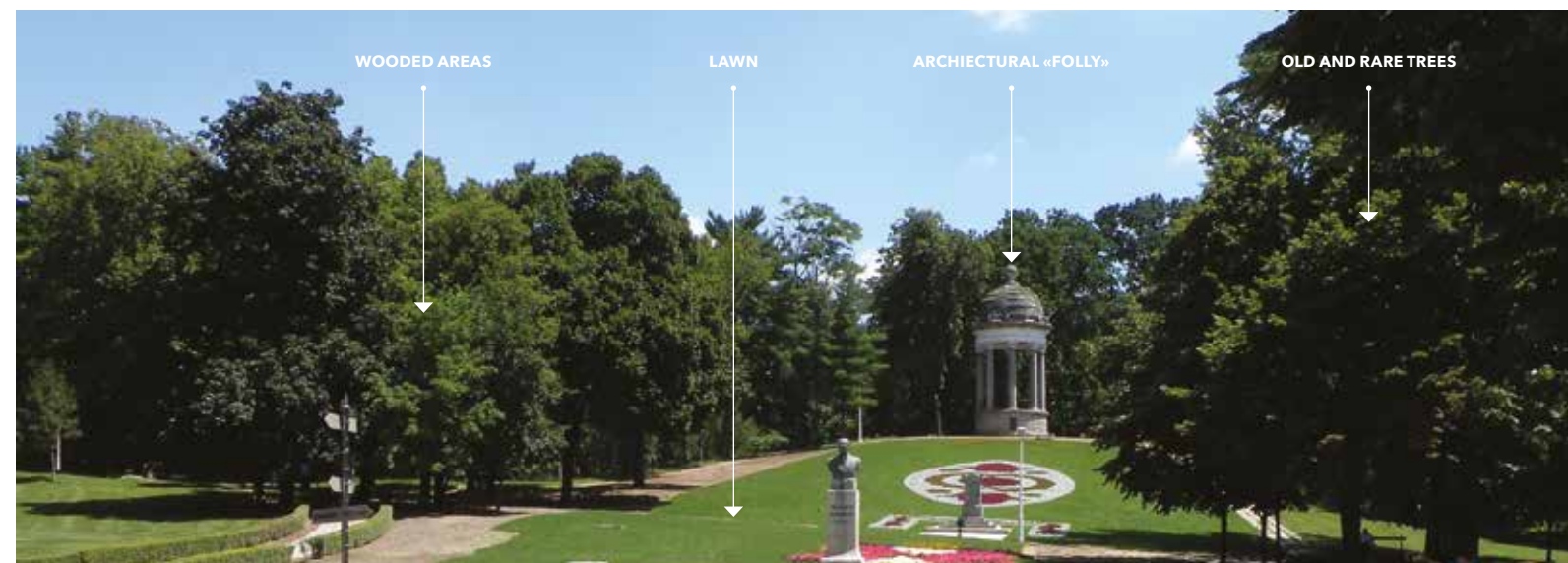
Picturesque entrance
in Lom city / VRATSA



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

This area was originally a small stream between two hills. A garden was then designed, but it soon fell into decay and the land was sold to the public authorities that built this impressive historical garden between 1901 and 1903 at the suggestion of the Craiova mayor Nicolae P. Romanescu. Designed by the French architect Edouard Redont whose plans and sketches were presented and highly appreciated during the Paris World Exhibition in 1900, the Romanescu Park was inaugurated in the presence of Carol I, the King of Romania at that time. It spreads on 96 hectares and remains one of the largest natural parks in Europe until now. During its layout, rare species of trees were especially brought in from Romania and acclimatized, a suspended bridge was designed to dominate the landscape and footbridges that imitate tree

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ The suspended bridge 2/ The lake 3/ The enchanted castle
4/ Valley and cascades 5/ Manor 6/ Old racecourse



bark were constructed. It also has an impressive alleyways and foot paths network of over 30 km, a 4 hectares lake and one of the oldest zoological garden in Romania that opened in 1906. Cultural activities used to be organised in the park's open theatre but the suspended bridge and the "Enchanted Castle" were and are still considered as the park landmarks sights. The Craiova hippodrome is also situated inside the park. Popular during the interwar period, the hippodrome gallop and trot races became rare during the Communist period. Today, it is mainly used to host track and field competitions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The park is situated in the south part of Craiova and is one of its main touristic attractions. Moreover, it is one of the principal and traditional leisure place for Craiova's inhabitants. People come for recreation, sports, walking and jogging. During the weekdays sporting activities are prevalent, especially during the evening. During weekends, local families come to visit the zoological garden or to rent boats for a trip on the lake. The parks houses restaurants with summertime terraces and taking a picnic on the grass lawn has become popular during the last few years. Sport activities like national track and field's championships are organized on the ground of the old hippodrome. The park is still not used enough as a cultural place for organizing concert or open air exhibitions for example.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Conceived and designed as a romantic park and appreciated by painters and photographers, the Romanescu park offers to its visitors several cultural and natural attractions such as its forest plantations that include over 250 species of trees and shrubs. Among the most noteworthy ornamental varieties, we can notice the Pinus excelsa wal

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>To preserve the park natural heritage and to renovate it according to its original design.
- 2>To renovate the hippodrome and develop equestrian activities as the original trot and gallop races
- 3>To build cycling tracks and implement a network of bicycle rent centres
- 4>Promote the park and local tourism by organizing national and international cultural/musical/ tourism events
- 5>To preserve and promote the park's cultural heritage. The suspended bridge and the zoological garden for example need urgent rehabilitation works.

(a conifer native from Himalaya) or the Cerasus serrulata. At the end of a hidden alley, we can discover the Bibescu mansion that belonged to the prince Bibescu family who sold this field to the city of Craiova in 1853 and go on the walk to the relaxing waterfalls. The park was one of the favourite places of one of the most famous Romanian artist Constantin Brancusi, a pioneer of modernism, also well known as the «Patriarch of modern sculpture». Some of his masterpieces such as «the kiss» and a historical re-enactment of his workshop can be seen in the Craiova Art museum.

THREATS

As a landscape masterpiece mainly covered by renewable and perishable materials such as trees and plants and a main touristic and leisure attraction, the park can suffer from the development of non sustainable economic activities or from the uncontrolled building of shops or catering activities.



Park trees



Lighting on the suspended bridge



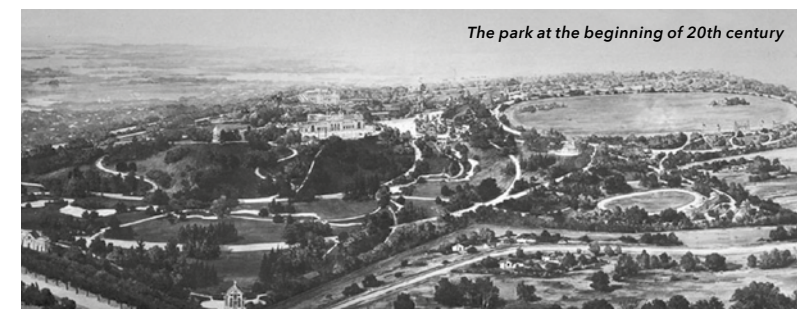
The enchanted castle



Waterfall

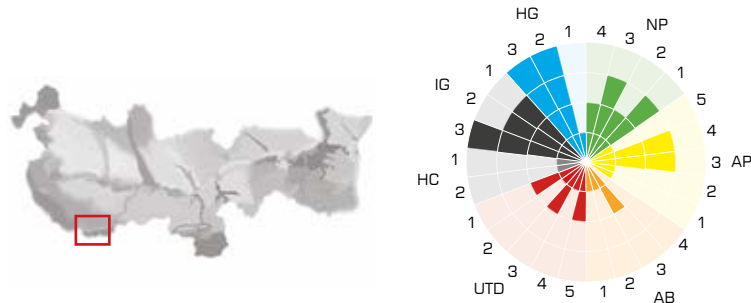


Large meadows and wooded areas



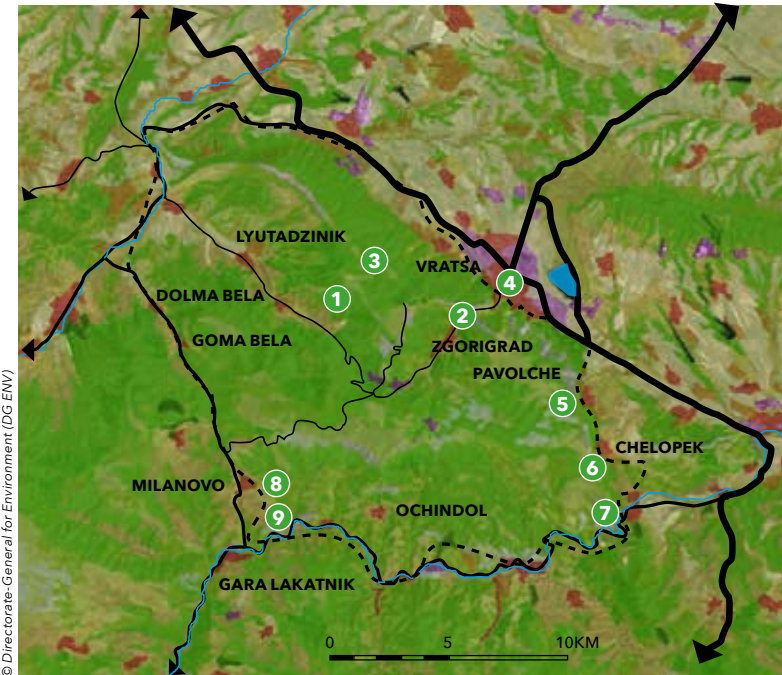
The park at the beginning of 20th century

VRATSA VRACHANSKI BALKAN NATURE PARK



POINTS OF INTEREST

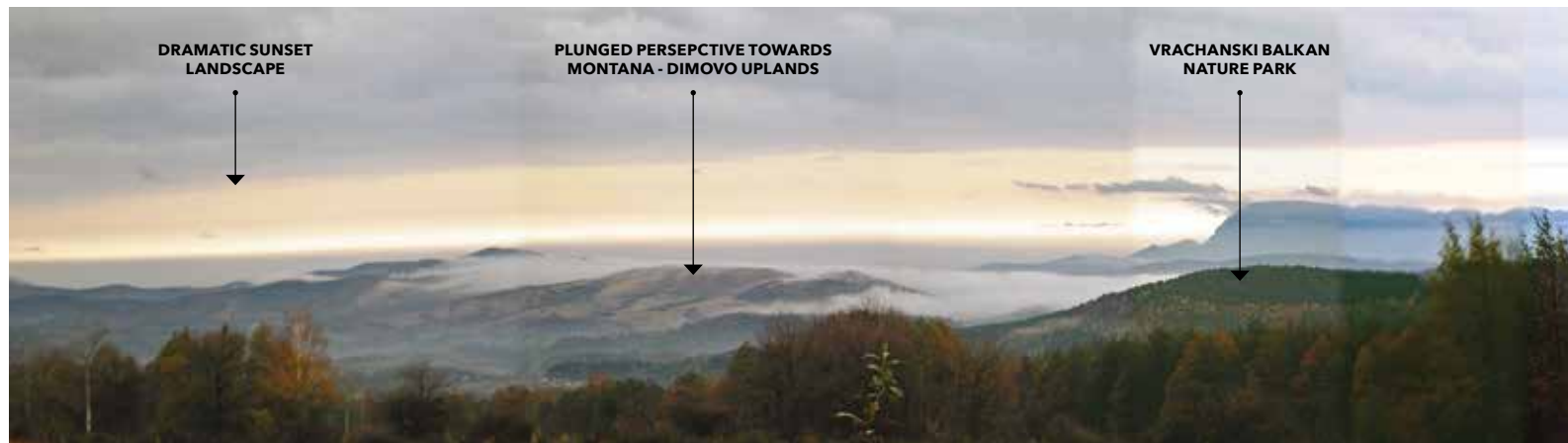
1/ Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park - Natura 200 Site 2/Vratsata Gorge - Natural Landmark 3/ Ladenika Cave 4/ Vratsa Regional History Museum 5/ Okolchitsa National Park of Hristo Botev 6/ Ritlite - Natural Landmark 7/ Cherepishki Monastery 8/ Temnata Dupka Cave 9/ Lakatnik Cliffs - Natural Landmark



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park is the second largest natural park in Bulgaria and spreads on more than 28000 hectares including several protected areas. It covers most of the Vrachanska Mountains and the Lakatnishki Rocks massif areas. The landscape is dominated by karst formations, hollows, pools and caverns, and includes more than 600 scenic caves and chasms. The surrounding slopes are covered by large beech forests. Small settlements are scattered on the few small flatlands surrounded by mountain peaks. The nature carved outstanding landmarks that are today protected as natural monuments. We can mention here the Ritlite formation, the Vratsata Gorges that are the highest vertical lime stones on the Balkan Peninsula or the 141 meters height Skaklia waterfall, the highest one in Bulgaria. Between the months of May and June, more than 170 waterfalls can be seen within the area. Today, the most important settlement in the area is the city of Vratsa which is situated at the foot of the park site and connected to Sofia by a scenic road that follows the natural park's southern border.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activities in this slightly populated area are linked to tourism, forestry and hunting. Thanks to its natural features, this Landscape Unit is acknowledged as an outstanding tourist attraction in the cross border area. Some investment programs and promotional activities have been implemented during the last years and as a result it became the main hiking spot for Sofia inhabitants with its network of 16 tourist routes crossing a variety of landscapes and natural landmarks in which 8 paths are marked with informative signs. The unit is part of the Vratsa district, one of the districts with the lowest birth-rate in Bulgaria, and is situated in the vicinity of the city of Vratsa, which has a remaining industry focused on textile) and on the production of construction materials such as cement. Vratsa has also developed as a MICE tourism destination during the last years.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park is part of the Natura 2000 network and hosts more than 1000 protected plant species, among which 80 are classified as endangered and rare species The park is also an important nesting ground for birds, some of them with quite large populations, such as the Egyptian vulture, the buzzard, the Imperial eagle or the peregrine falcon. The other natural landmarks are the Temnata Dupka (Dark Hole), one of the longest caves in Bulgaria, with its complex environment of entrances, galleries, waterfalls and underground rivers or the Vratsata Gorge around the Leva River, a popular climbing spot that hosts the ruins of the Vratitsa medieval fortress, Indeed, the favourable climate and the “protecting” geographic conditions attracted people who settled on the unit’s valleys and hollows since ancient times as numerous cultural heritage sites witness it. We can mention here the remains of the old fortified settlement of Korintgrad and of its nine surroundings medieval churches, the Osenovlashki Monastery “St. Mary or the Cherepishki Monastery, an operating male monastery that also offers accommodation.

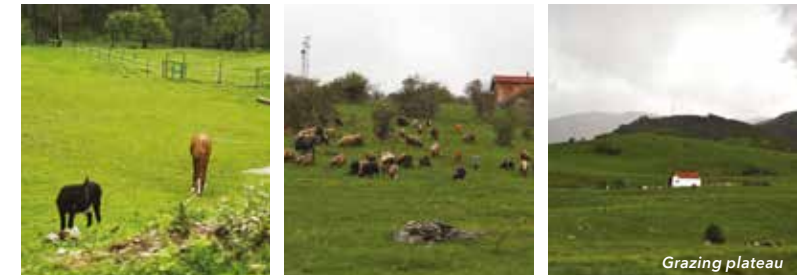
THREATS

The main threats identified are illegal logging, poaching and landslide risks.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Create a landscape preservation and promotion strategy in the protected areas management policies and involve local communities in the drafting of such plans in order to disseminate information on landscape values
- 2>Support the development of small and sustainable tourism facilities (accommodation, services, accessibility, information points)
- 3>Create a joint tourism development strategy with Vratsa city



PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT ZGORIGRAD CHAIRLIFT, VRATSA



ZGORIGRAD VILLAGE,
GPS > 43O11'27.09"N ; 23O29'36.29"E



Abandoned chairlift equipment



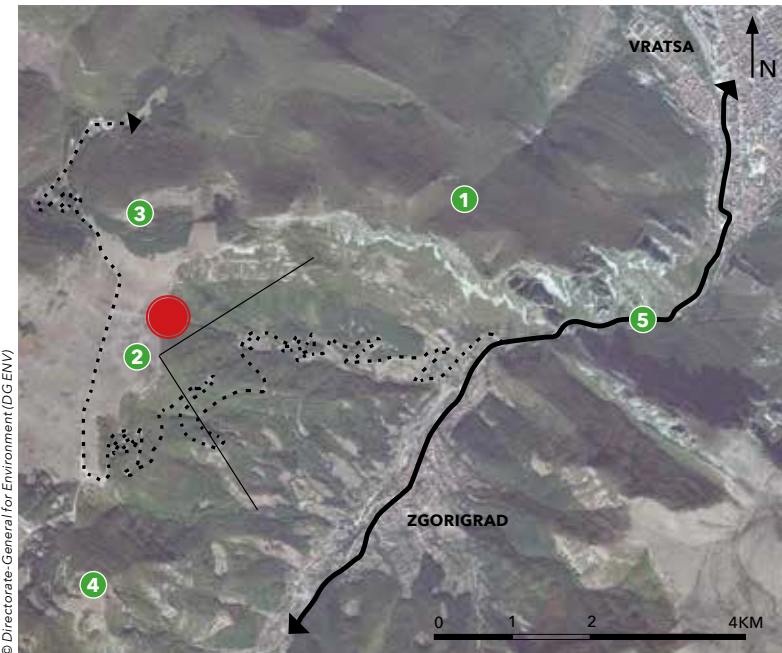
Landscape with horses



Road access to the site

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Beautiful mountain meadows 2/ Bird eye's view towards Zgorigrad and Vratsa from a natural terrace 3/ Peak Toshna Mogila (1138m) 4/ Peak Zambina Mogila (1208 m) 5/ Vratsata Pass



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READING THE LANDSCAPE



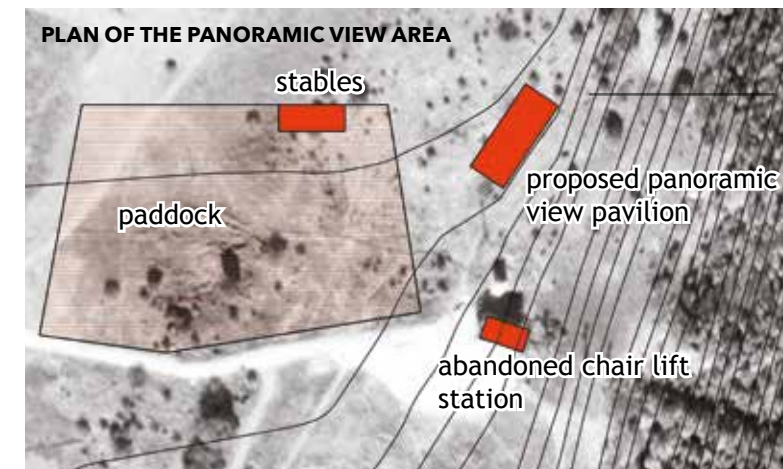
Panoramic view over the Zgorigrad Village from the abandoned chairlift station

GENERAL PROPOSALS

- 1>Renovate the chairlift
- 2>Improve the existing horse trails and create new ones as there is an existing horse farm offering riding opportunities.
- 4>Create hiking paths and implement tourism information boards
- 3>Create a panoramic view pavilion with a seasonal tourism infrastructure.

The intervention refers here to the renovation and the development, by adding key facilities, of the former complex situated on the top of the Plateau. The chairlift that is linking the plateau with Zgorigrad area should be restored in order to facilitate the user's access within the complex. A new building, integrating a belvedere point and a horse stable, will be inserted in the complex.

The belvedere will emphasize the outstanding view towards the valley and the other mountain peaks and will also be the starting point of thematic pathways for horse rides and walking or cycling tours. These trails will ensure a connection with the Ledenika Cave area and the other surrounding points of interest. The complex will also host a proper parking area and a tourist information signage.



Norwegian Wild Reindeer Centre Pavilion
(Example of an appropriate type of architecture)

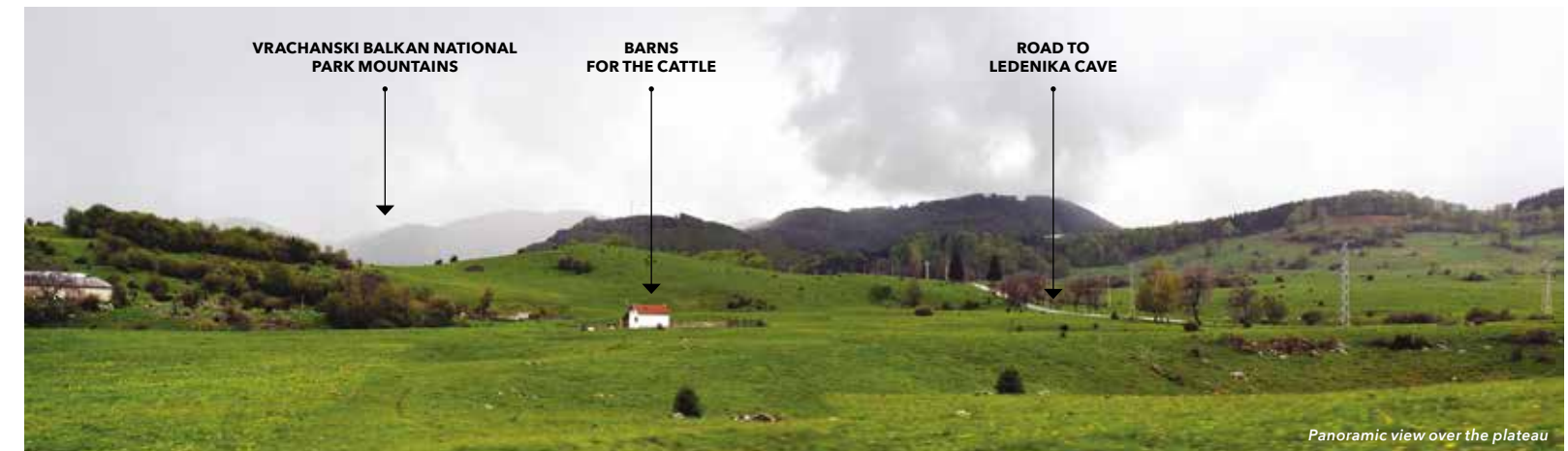


Proposal of a Belvedere architecture that
can be integrated in the Landscape

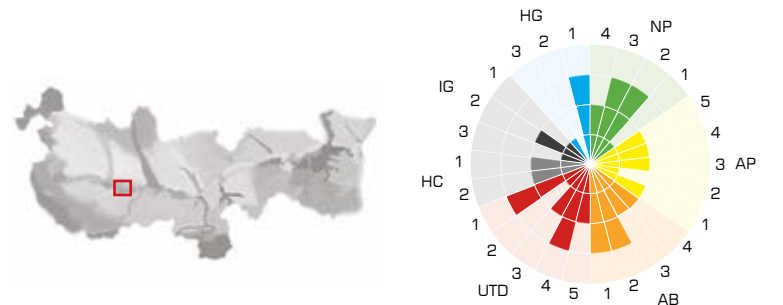
SITE DESCRIPTION

The scenic viewpoint is situated in a broad plateau amid the peaks of the Vrachanska Mountain. The average altitude of the area is a just above 1000 meters. The eastern boundary of this vast meadow is a terrace-like natural platform overhanging the Vratsata Pass. The view here is breathtaking and overlooks the village of Zgorigrad nestled between the mountain peaks, 500 meters down. Vratsa can be perceived further down in the open valley behind the peaks. The road for the famous and very visited Ledenika Cave is passing nearby and several hiking trails surround the area.

Around 30 years ago, a chairlift was constructed linking Zgorigrad and this charming site but it is no more operational and the equipments are abandoned. A restored chairlift with new complementary tourism facilities could become the area's landmark and contribute to the touristic development of the area. Indeed, the site's flat relief and the existing access road give the promise of an easy development.



Panoramic view over the plateau



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

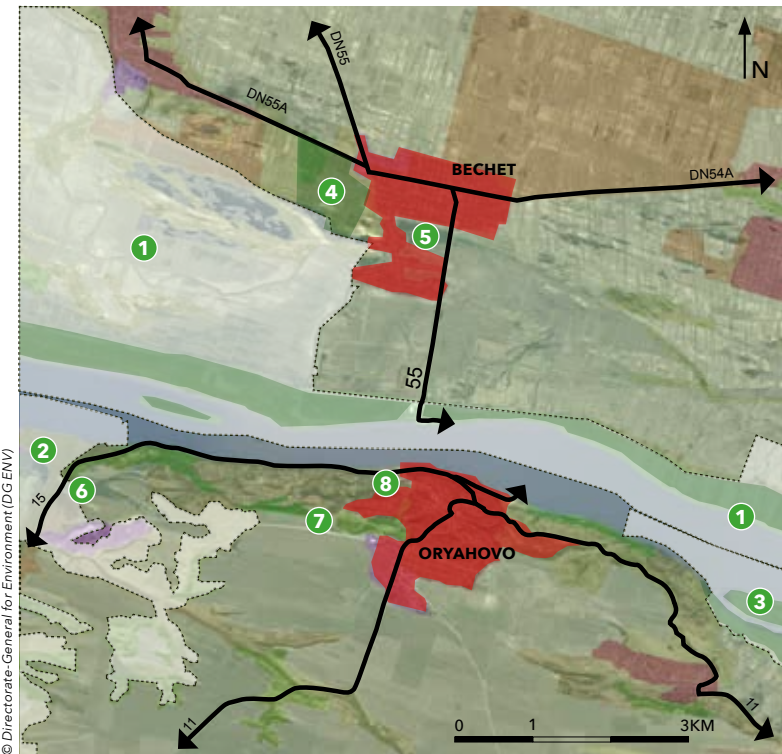
The port city of Oryahovo is located in Northwestern Bulgaria, in the Eastern section of the Ogosta's River confluence point. In its vicinity, we can find one of the highest points on the Bulgarian riverside, at 226 meters. The city is positioned in a plain and hilly area at an average altitude of 150 metres. The soils composition is mainly of humus and loess and the city offers a moderate continental climate. After Bulgarian independence, the city was known thanks to its lively trade and its rich cultural life, and was therefore ranked as a district administrative centre during 10 years (1877-1882 and 1884-1889). The architecture was then influenced by Western European style and adapted to its topography, which led to the development of a charming city centre with sloping streets. On the other side of the Danube, the port city of Bechet is located at the border of the Danube flood area, on a flat relief dominated by alluvial soils and wind deposits, near the confluence of the Jiu and the Danube rivers. Even if it receives recently the administrative status of city, Bechet has the typical features of a Romanian large lower Danube area's village with a network of rectangular street with one storey houses and big gardens

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Jiu-Danube Confluence Natura 2000 Site (RO) 2/ Ogosta River Natura 2000 Site (BG) 3/ Ostrov area Natura 2000 Site (BG) 4/ Bechet forest 5/ Aradau wetland 6/ Aedava Fortress Site 7/Tabia Ottoman fort 8/Rahov medieval fortress



and a city centre marked by a mix of communist collective dwellings and elements of classical architecture.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The two port cities are facing similar economic difficulties due to the disappearance of the area's industries after the fall of communism. The main economic activities are crop agriculture, mainly wheat, barley and sunflower, and viticulture. The port cities suffer from a lack of modern infrastructure and of qualified human resources in order to attract investors. The population's decrease and its ageing trend have become the main challenge to tackle. Oryahovo-Bechet is one of the most frequented crossing point in the cross border area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Several Natura 2000 protection sites can be found in the vicinity of these two cities. The Jiu Corridor and the Jiu-Danube confluence natural reserves in Romania and the Ogosta River and Ostrov area sites in Bulgaria offer rich habitats for protected species of migratory birds or for specific aquatic species or hydrophytic plants. Close to Bechet, we can find the charming Sadova monastery built in the 17th century to celebrate a victory on the Ottoman army. The main cultural heritage landmarks are situated on the Bulgarian side with sights such as the Adeva fortress, the Rahov fortress or the Tabia fort that are all



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Create a common landscape management plan in order to valorise the cultural and natural heritage and the agricultural land that surround both cities.
- 2>Develop a joint marketing and promotion plan to support the development of integrated tourism products and the creation of a common brand for local products.
- 3>Preserve and promote the natural surrounding of Bechet such as the Aradau wetland, the Bechet forest or the Jiet channel as the city protected natural parks.
- 4> Protect and renovate the fortresses network of Oryahovo city with paths and bicycle trails that will connect the historical sights.
- 5> Create joint festivals in the two cities.

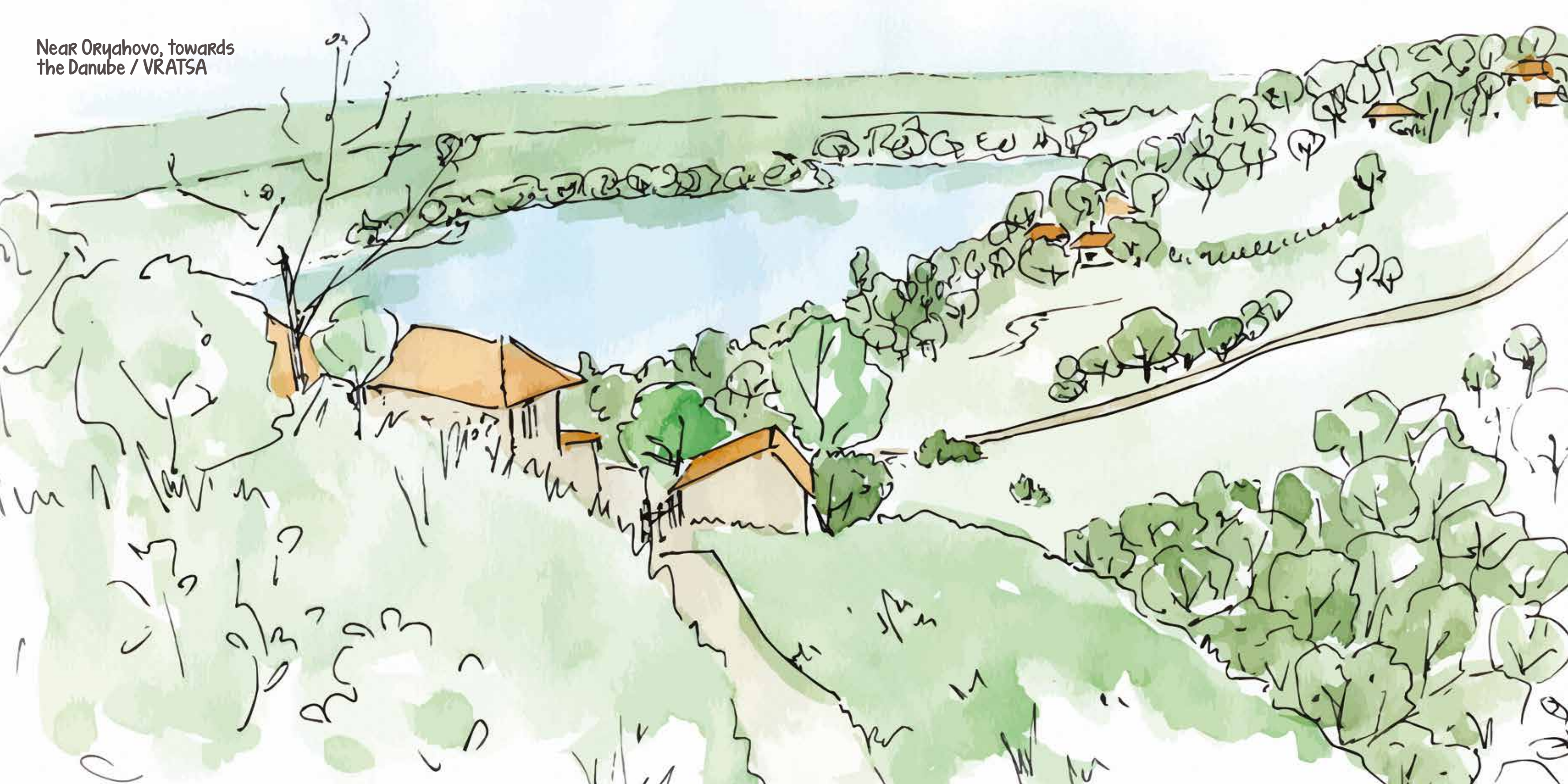
positionned on the highest points of the city's surroundings. All these sites were part through centuries of the Danube fortification system created by the successive rulers.

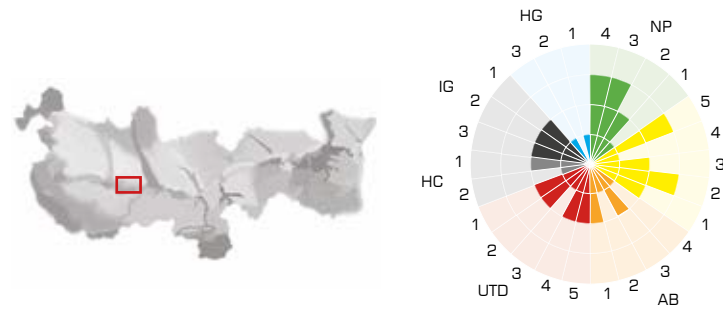
THREATS

The continuous depopulation of the area due to the lack of economic opportunities and the continuous degradation of the port infrastructures and of the road network are the main threats.



Near Oryahovo, towards
the Danube / VRATSA





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

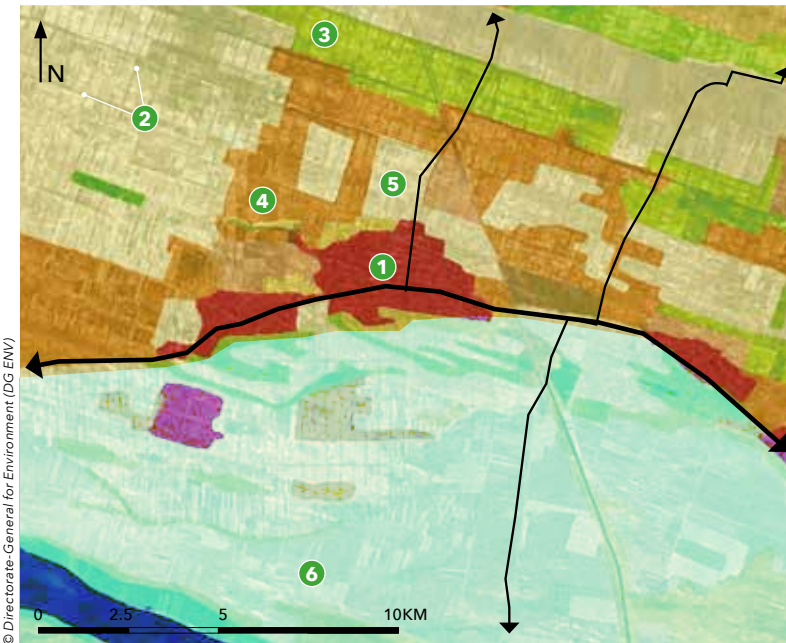
Situated in the Danube Valley, East to the Jiu river confluence, the Landscape Unit area belongs to the «Romanitilor» plain, a subdivision of the Oltenia plain. The landscape looks like a large amphitheatre that extends itself between the Jiu and the Olt River. The area is often called the only European desert due to its relief of alluvial sand dunes in a meadow area. This lifeless area appears as a real Sahara with a rare fauna and flora and frequent sandstorms. This desertification process is continuously increasing especially in the vicinity of the villages of Dabuleni, Sadova, Marsani and Desa because of the soil composition, mainly sandy soils that do not retain water, of the climate conditions, this the warmest area in Romania, and the wind erosion. Moreover, anthropic activities have accelerated this process through

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Dabuleni village 2/ Windbreaks 3/ Planted areas for soil stabilization 4/ Vines 5/ Watermelon culture/agricultural land 6/ Danube valley



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a massive deforestation and the introduction of intensive agriculture during the communist period. Dabuleni is today a well-known area in Romania for its sweet watermelons and the soil conditions are currently studied in order to introduce new exotic crops, for instance peanuts are already being cultivated in the area.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The area is composed of agricultural lands, plantations, orchards, river grids, permanent wetlands and temporary ponds. The area's symbol is the watermelon that is the main driver for local agriculture economic. Non-food crops and vineyards are the second and third-choice cultures. After the Communist period, the little industry present in the area disappeared except some small alcohol production units. Due to this economic situation, Dabuleni is suffering from population loss as job opportunities are scarce. The sand plant research centre that was created during communist times is still in activity and the research is focused on developing sustainable practices for areas affected by desertification and on studying the potential adaptability of new crops in the area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The sand dunes area of the Landscape Unit is part of a Natura 2000 site. Several protected species nest here such as egrets, crows or the red-footed falcon. The sand dunes are a unique part of the Potelu floodplain site that also include floodplains, grasslands and forests. Therefore, the area offers different kinds of habitats and can become a short



Watermelon «market» at the entrance of the city



Vineyards

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1> Design and build the first desert museum in Europe.
- 2> Create and register a label or a GI (geographical indication)
- 3> Increase the support to the research centre activities on developing sustainable production and agricultural practices, crop rotation and introducing new crops such as sweet potatoes.
- 5> Protect, renovate and develop new windbreaks
- 6> Support the creation of rural accommodations in the area

stay tourism destination or can be used for educational trip purposes. The area is located along the Euroveloroute 6 that follows the national road that connects the ports of Calafat and Corabia, which can be used by Danube cruises ships. There is a strong need to promote this specific natural heritage and the local agricultural products by creating a strong local brand that will be based on the surprising desert that marks this area. For example, a sand museum can be created to explain the desertification history and process and the specificity of agriculture in the area. It would be the first and only desert museum in Europe.

THREATS

Monoculture has become one of the main threat and a crop rotation system must be implemented in order to preserve soil quality and fertility and to sustain high production levels. Another result of the watermelon monoculture is that the local economy is extremely fragile, depending on the yearly production and price level of a single crop.



Local watermelons



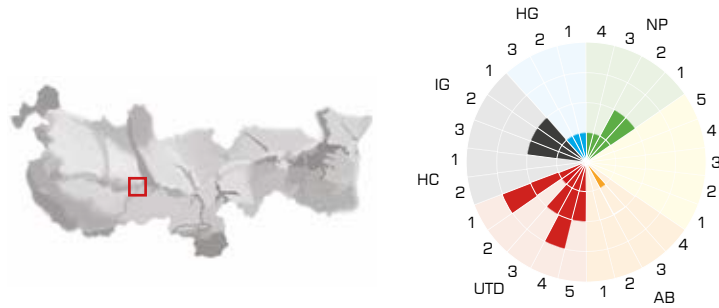
Poplars plantations along the road



Dabuleni landscape: windbreaks, dry landscape and a mix of cultivated and non-cultivated land

Dabuleni area, DOLJ





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

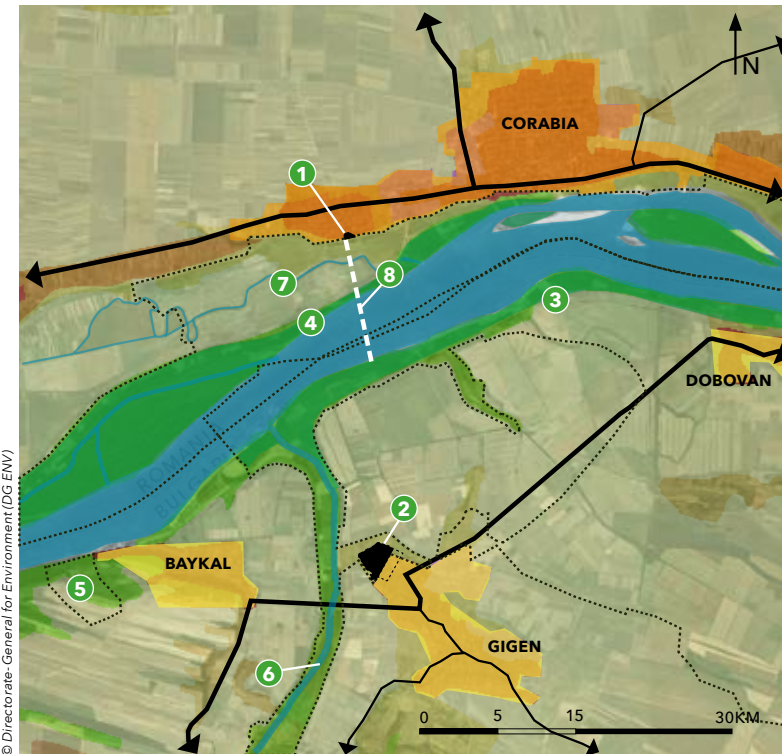
Sucidava fortress is situated in the heart of the city of Corabia, while the Ulpia Oescus site is in the northwestern part of the Gigen village, which is part of the Gulyantsi municipality in the Pleven District. The Sucidava and the Ulpia Oescus fortresses are situated in the vicinity of the Iskar river mouth, on a Danube floodplain area characterised by poplars and willows' meadows. Both sites are surrounded by farming plots and grazing areas. Sucidava and Ulpia Oescus were established by the Romans on already existing Danube riverbanks settlements, Ulpia Oescus in the first century AD on a Thracian settlement founded by the Triballi, and Sucidava in the fourth century AD on the main settlement of an important Dacian tribe, the Sucs. Both sites were positioned at the crossroads of two important commercial routes, a South-North route that was starting on the Aegean and Mediterranean seashores and passing along the Iskar valley and the Olt valley towards the Dacia superior province, and a West- East trade route from the current Iron Gates site to the Black Sea along the left side of the Danube. These towns had their apogee between the second and fourth century, which is highlighted by the building of the Constantine bridge, a 2 434

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Sucidava fortress 2/ Ulpia Oescus 3/ Karaboaz Protected Site (SCI Natura 2000) 4/ Olt - Danube Confluence Protected Site (SCI Natura 2000) 5/ Cheshmata Protected Site 6/ Iskar valley 7/ Bohazului brook 8/ Former bridge of Constantine the Great (destroyed)



meters long and 5,70 meters width wooden bridge with stone pillars that was linking the two sites. It is said that the emperor Constantine the Great himself participated at its official opening in 328 AD. Ulpia Oescus was destroyed by the Avars in the 6th century while Sucidava was abandoned by its Byzantine inhabitants during the same period.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the Landscape Unit area. Corabia, the main area's settlement, developed at the end of the 19th century as one of the main grain port of the region and was then linked to the railway network. During the communist period, the port was closed and Corabia became a local industrial centre with synthetic yarn, furniture, sugar and a mineral tannery factories. All these industries are now closed and agriculture has remained the main economic activity of this shrinking cross border area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The main landmark of the Sucidava fortress is its secret fountain that can be reached through a 26 meters long corridor, which goes down until a spring situated at a 18 meters depth. The legend said that this spring water has magical effect for health and can unite again the split



RECOMMENDATIONS

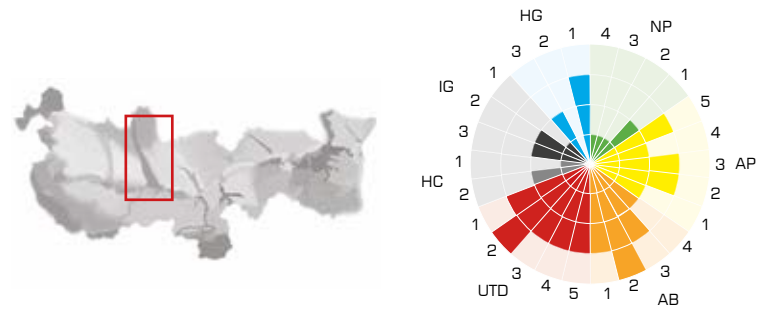
- 1>Support archaeological diggings in both sites and renovate and protect the current heritage.
- 2>Create a cross border archaeological museum and transfer back some of the artefacts that are exhibited in regional museums such as the Pleven one and develop common cultural events.
- 3> Develop integrated cross border weekend natural and cultural tourism products (one day in Bulgaria, one day in Romania)

up couples. Except the rich but quite unpreserved cultural heritage of both Roman fortresses, we can also mention the Corabia Orthodox cathedral, one of the largest in Romania, and the rich variety of flora and fauna that can be found especially in the nearby Olt River - Danube Confluence and the Karaboaz Natura 2000 sites that preserve several protected migratory bird species nesting places.

THREATS

Both archaeological sites are listed and protected heritage sites at national level but are still suffering of vandalism and looting activities, especially the Sucidava site.





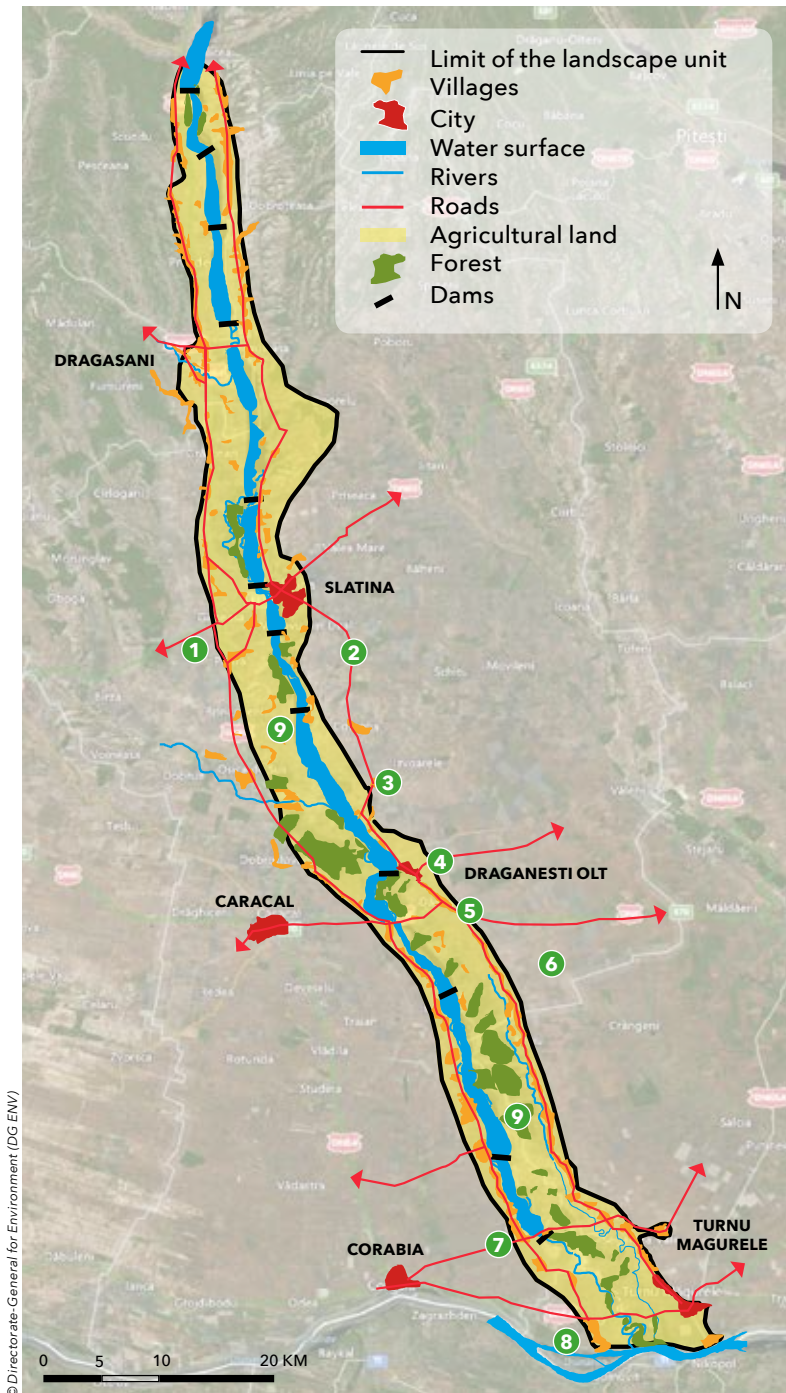
POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Calateanu Fortified Manor (Kula) 2/ Brebeni Manor 3/ Balanesti Manor 4/ Boianului Plain Museum (Archeoparc) - Gumelnita Culture 6/ Bratanu Manor 7/ "Tudor Gheorhe" Cultural Center & Ethnographic Museum in Izbiceni 8/ Olt - Danube confluence area - Natura 2000 Site 9/ Lower Olt River Plain - Natura 2000 Site



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

On its way from the Carpathians mountains to the Danube, the Olt river passes through the Oltet and Cotmenei piedmont before arriving to Slatina where it enters in the Romanian plain (Campia Romana). Then, the river gets wider and accentuates its meandering. This plain area is composed of interfluvials lands with a micro-relief of dales, valleys and terraces. The land consists mainly of marl, sand, sandstone and gravel, covered by a thick layer of loess whose thickness increases Eastward. Olt's floodplain has been strongly modified by the embankment works done all along its course. Numerous habitats were affected by the dams, built in order to temper and capture the river waters, which became one of the most important landscape features. The only area that has kept the river natural appearance is situated in the last kilometres before the Danube and is often named the Olt delta. Here, the banks are steep, still unconsolidated and bounded from place to place by poplars, willows and alder groves.



We can see there on the left bank water meadows and on the right bank pastures, agricultural crops and a forest protection curtain made from poplar. The preservation of the habitats mosaic of the Olt delta (wetlands, forests, grasslands and crops) is of strategic interest as it provides optimal conditions for the nesting, feeding and halting of 15 bird species protected at the European Union level.

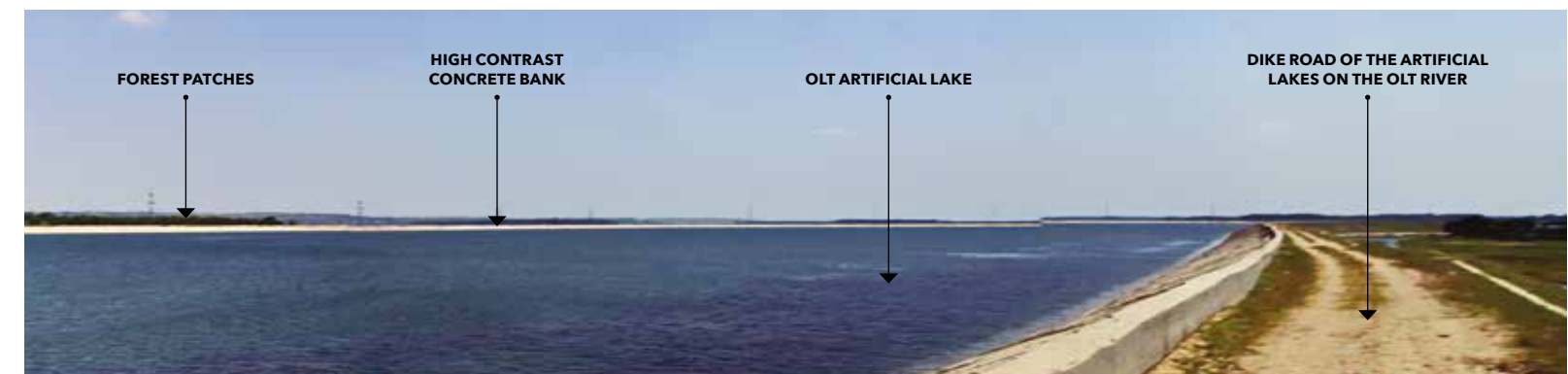
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Outside the industrial centre of Slatina, agriculture is the main economic activity in the area. If the northern part of the Landscape Unit is well known for its vineyards, the southern part is more inclined towards vegetable and rice production. Some industries and activities such as riverbed stone quarrying or sandpit are also present in the area. Small-scale fishing activities are encouraged by the presence of the Olt's river and its neighbouring lakes and we can notice the current development of traditional fishery products. This natural potential had led also to the development of fishing tourism. Leisure activities such as canoeing has also started to appear in the area and a water sports festival is organized every August but the tourism potential of the area especially in wine tourism and ecotourism is still not valorised.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The main cultural heritage sights in the area are the Clocociov Monastery built during the reign of Neagoe Basarab (1512-1521), the Ruins Of The Royal Court Brancoveni built during the 17th century, the archaeological site of the Roman fortress and settlement of Acidava that was located a few kilometres from the capital of Dacia Inferior Romula Malva and the Slaveni fortress, the largest roman fortress built in stones in Oltenia. Two museums reflect a part of the cultural heritage of the area: the Cultural Centre & Ethnographic Museum in Izbiceni with permanent and temporary exhibitions, a replica of a 15th century church and an 18th-century farmstead, and the Boianul Plain Museum, located in the Draganesti-Olt archeoparc with a reconstituted Neolithic settlement of the famous Gumelnita culture. The area hosts important and rare protected bird species especially during the migration periods and offers sandy beaches, rivers and lakes for nature related activities and relaxation.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1> Enhance the protection and the promotion of the Natura 2000 sites and of all the protected areas.
- 2> Encourage a sustainable development of agriculture and of traditional products such as fishery products
- 3> Enhance the control of the urban sprawl
- 4> Create thematic trails that will link Slatina to the Eurovelo 6 route and support the creation of accommodations in the area

THREATS

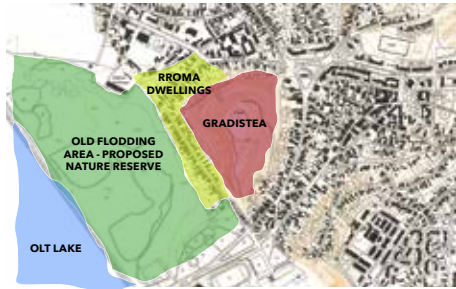
The main challenges faced by the area are sand and gravel operations, the extension of intensive agricultural, the overgrazing, the illegal burning of reeds and usually of the dry vegetation, poaching and angling activities. Waste management, especially in the industry sector, is also a key issue to preserve the area's natural heritage.



PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT GRADISTEA HILL, SLATINA



SLATINA CITY, EUROPEAN
ROAD NO 574
GPS > 44O25'41.68"N ; 24O21'03.28"E



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Slatina is a city with a wide opening to the Olt River. Although almost entirely systematised for hydro-energetic power, the Olt river still offers a spectacular landscape to the city's visitors. Gradistea hill, located at a significant height over the city, is the best point to enjoy a panoramic view on the Olt river crossing the city. For the moment, the only facility on the top of the hill is a Ceremonial House used mainly for weddings and private festive events.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



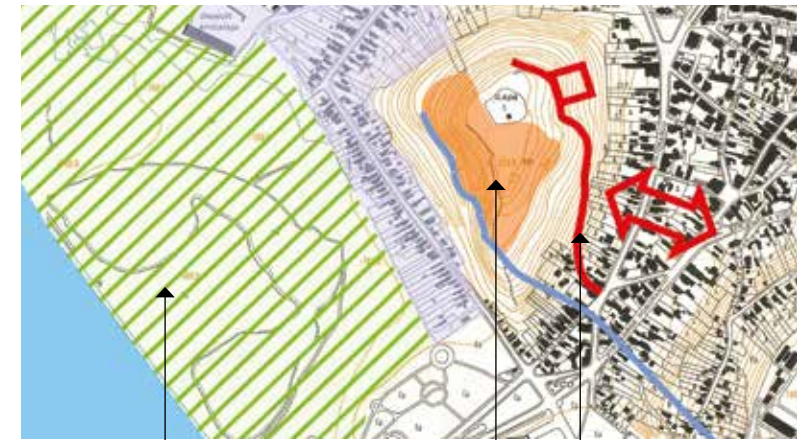
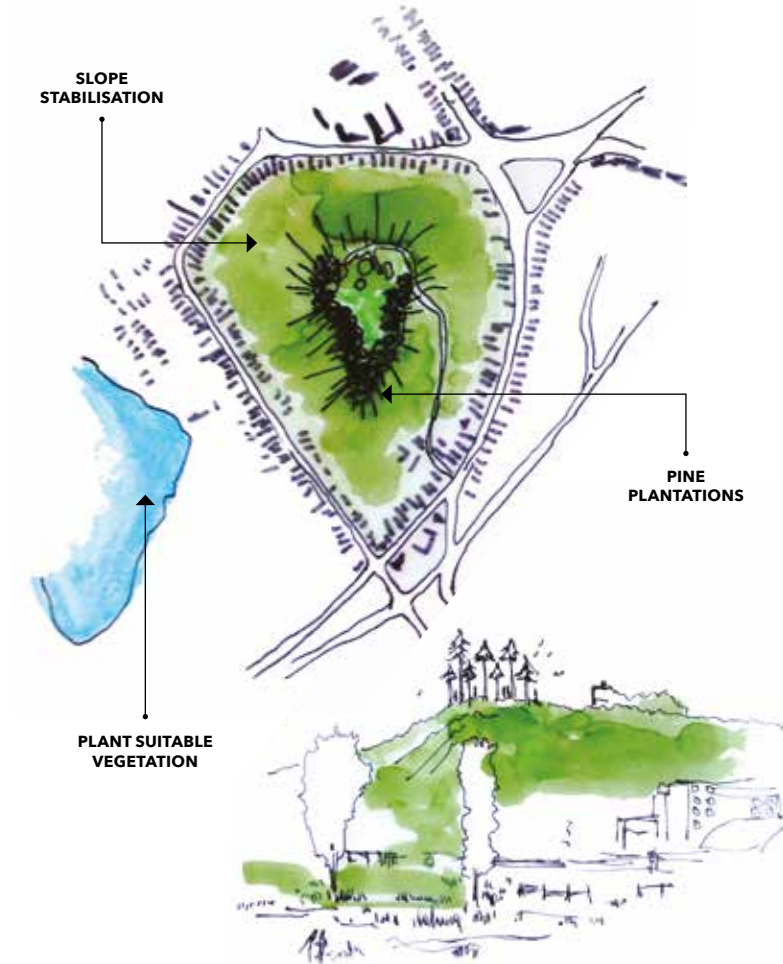
POINTS OF INTEREST AND ACCESSIBILITY

1/ Gradistea Hill 2/ Green Corridors 3/ Olt Lake 4/ Slatina City



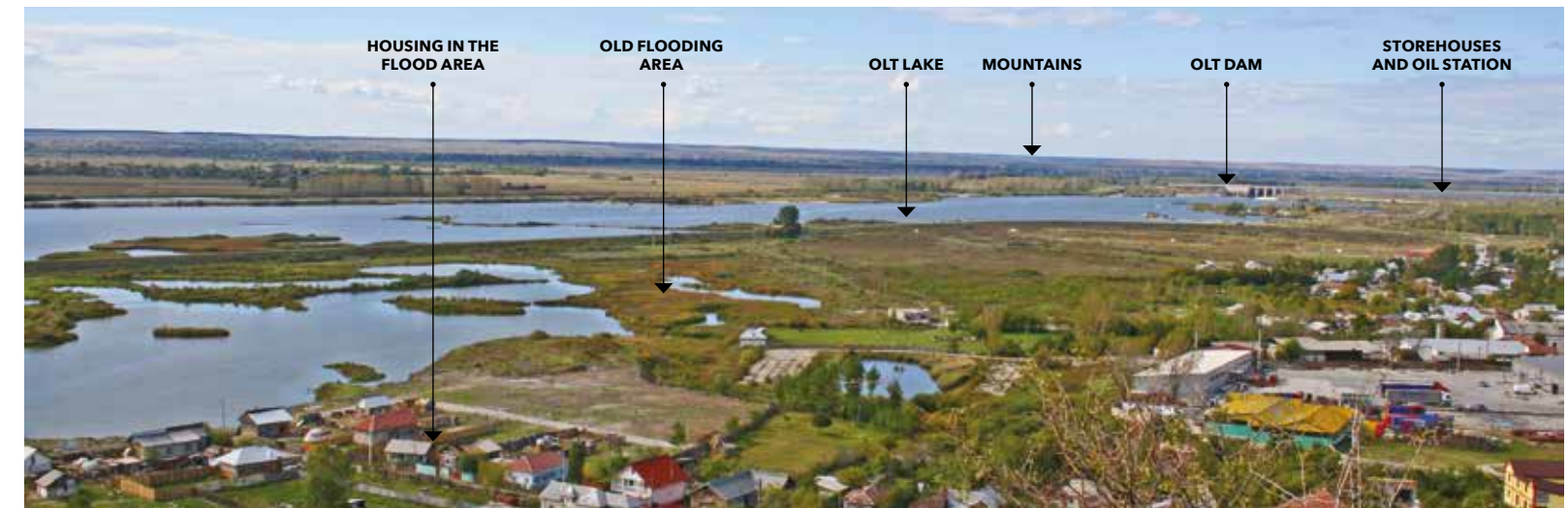
© Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)

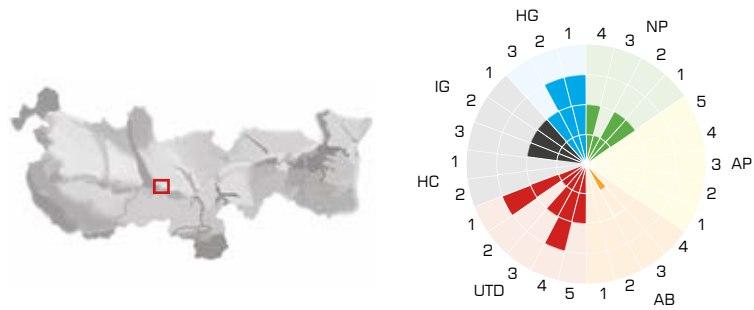
GENERAL PROPOSALS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Restore the vegetation and protect the biodiversity
- 2>Develop leisure activities related to water (nautic sports, beach area etc.)
- 3>Develop sport activities and soft leisure facilities on Gradistea hill
- 4>Enhance the links between the city green corridors and the Olt river green corridor.
- 5>Improve the stability of the slopes
- 6>Create a new plantation of pines to mark the viewpoint area
- 7>Create a promenade with integrated furnitures and open views towards the city
- 8>Create and maintain scenic views towards the city and the Olt river.





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

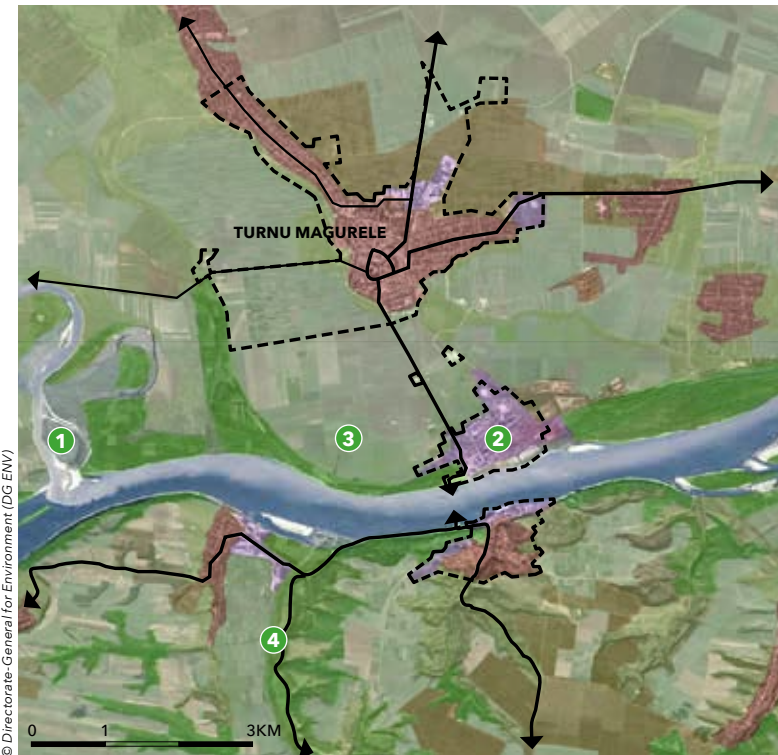
Important military and economic centres especially during the 19th century, Turnu Magurele and Nikopol are linked by a long and common history that must be revitalised in order to foster their common economic development. Initially known as the Little Nikopol, Nicopolic Minor, in ancient foreign and local documents, the Romanian settlement got its name in the late medieval period when Mircea the Elder established a fortress, Turnu meaning tower in Romanian. Magurele refers to the old village situated in its vicinity. The landscape features are quite different between the two cities. Turnu Magurele is situated in the southern limit of the Romanian Plain, in the contact area between the Danube floodplain and the Burnas Plain. Built on a narrow steppe strip along the Danube, the city is bordered by the Olt River flowing into the Danube. The small forest cover is composed of willows and poplars' meadows. Situated, at 3 km to the east of the mouth of the Osam River, in an amphitheatre area along mild slopes of loess hills, Nikopol has a typical fortress' landscape. Its orientation towards

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Olt floodplain 2/ Chemical fertilizers plant 3/ Turnu fortress 4/ Osam valley



the Danube and its old fortifications create a charming cityscape. The city is surrounded by the Nikopol plateau and its rich soils covered by agricultural lands and deciduous forests composed mainly of poplars but also of oaks, elms or maples. Turnu Magurele and Nikopol cities have different urban design. Turnu Magurele has a geometric pattern with concentric streets and some recent irregular extensions as it was planned during the mid-19th century according to the land configuration and to the prevailing wind directions. Nikopol has an organic pattern that highlights its old and rich history and that is linked to its topographical features.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The two cities are the main economic poles of their agricultural adjacent regions. Turnu Magurele was even the Teleorman County administrative centre until 1950. The economic sector in Turnu Magurele is dominated by its fertilizer chemical plant and by small-medium sized companies in the textile, wood processing and milling fields of activities. The surrounding area is focused on agriculture with cereal, industrial and tobacco crops, and more rarely livestock farming. The economy of Nikopol is essentially based on agriculture with wheat, barley, oats, corn, sunflower and tobacco crops. Livestock farming is also well developed and represents an important economic activity. Then, we can mention forestry and fishery. Nikopol has a population of about 3 200 inhabitants composed mainly of Turks while Turnu Magurele is a more populated city with almost 25 000 inhabitants but with a more important depopulation trend due mainly to its economic decline and to low birth rate. Since shortly, the two cities are linked by a car ferry that has quickly stimulated cross border tourism. Thus, a first motel opened in Nikopol just after the start of the ferry course.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

While being the smallest Bulgarian municipality on the Danube banks, Nikopol has a rich history dating back to the Stone Age. It is well known for its medieval fortress, place of several historical sieges such as the battle of Nicopolis in September 1396 that is considered as the last large scale crusade and as the sign of the decline and future fall of

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>To protect, restore and develop the landscape of the city parks hosting the Turnu Magurele and Nikopol fortresses sites
- 2>Create a common cross border brand for the destination and its crafted products that illustrate the ethnic diversity of the area.
- 3>Monitor chemical plant activity and create early pollution warning systems

the Byzantine empire . The Ottoman's victory sealed then the end of the Second Bulgarian Empire. The beautifully decorated 13th century church of Saints Peter and Paul and the tomb of the Muslim saint Baba Ali Kocl are the other city landmarks. About 18% of the Nikopol plateau belongs to the Persina Natura 2000 site with its almost 500 species of plants and over 200 species of birds. Turnu Magurele is well known for the ruins of the Turnu fortress and for its early 20th century church – Saint Haralambie. Two Natura 2000 sites in the city vicinity, the Olt River – Danube confluence and the Corabia-Turnu Magurele, are home to protected migratory bird species.

THREATS

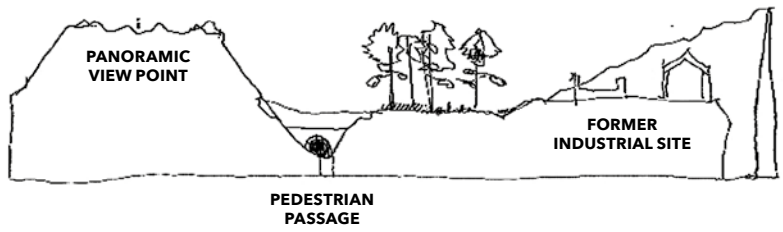
The major threat in the area is linked to the pollution of the chemical fertilizers plant that is affecting both cities and their nearby protected areas. Flood, soil erosion and landslides are also major issues for the city of Nikopol that has been inundated during the 2006 floods.



PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEW POINT
NIKOPOL FORTRESS, PLEVEN



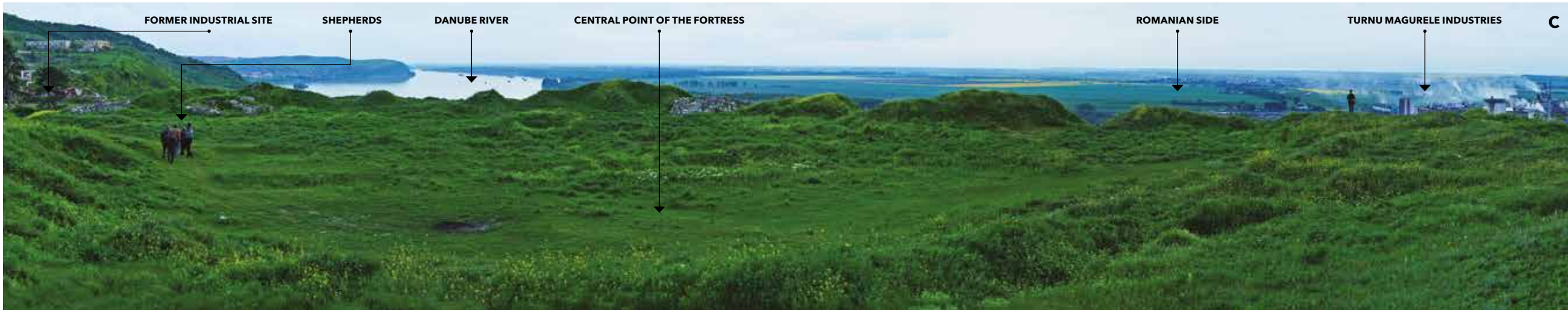
NIKOPOL CITY, NATIONAL ROAD NR 52
GPS > 43O42'12.42"N ; 24O53'32.01"E



SITE DESCRIPTION

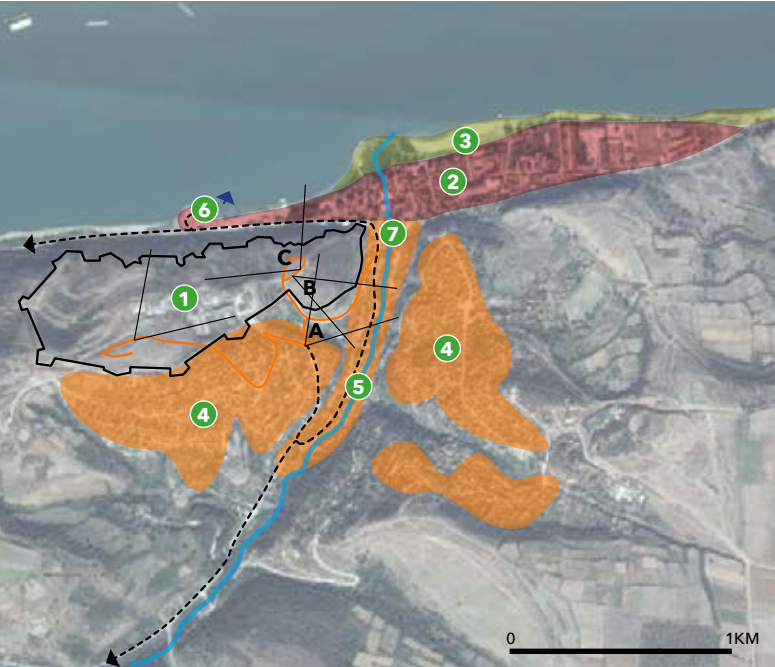
History marks the landscape of Nikopol. The fortress, situated in the central area of the city, is the perfect place to create a panoramic viewpoint even if the fortress is weakly connected to the other parts of the city. The proposed location is currently used as a pasture area and is closed to a former industrial area that can be considered as a scar in the landscape. This strategic point should be rediscovered as it offers a spectacular wide view towards the Danube river, the Romanian side and the living city with its mosque and its oriental atmosphere.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Nikopol Fortress 2/ Industrial area 3/ Beach area 4/ Picturesque residential area 5/ Osam river valley 6/ Ferry crossing to Turnu Magurele 7/ City center



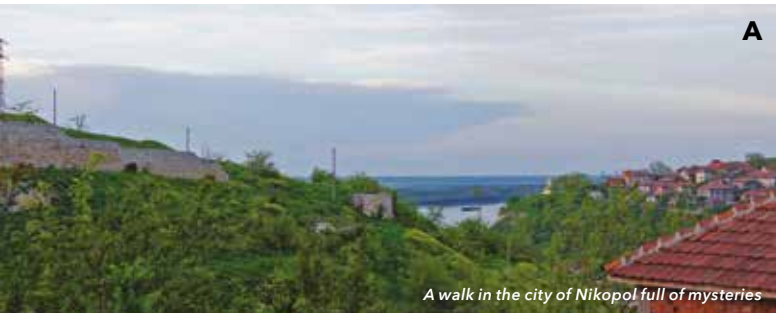
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GENERAL PROPOSALS

The project activities should be minimal: cleaning garbages, grazing control, restructuring circuit paths to increase the access to the highest areas and the setting up of outdoor furniture (benches, garbage bins) and information signs about the site's history



CENTRAL MEMORIAL SPACE

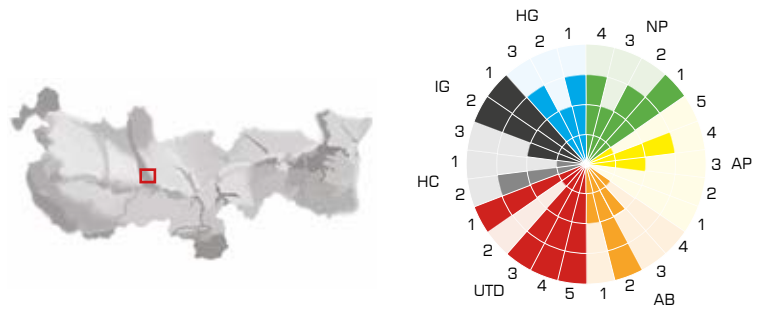


- 1>Central memorial space
- 2>Earth mounds (existing)
- 3>Fortress gate
- 4>Fortress remaining walls
- 5>Pedestrian bridge

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Protect and renovate the archaeological site.
- 2>Reorganise the paths through the fortress to increase the landscape value of the surroundings and of the highest places.
- 3>Hide technical/modern infrastructure through green «barriers»
- 4>Organise the pasture activities as some of the areas remain in a wild state.
- 5>Plant shrubs and trees to highlight certain directions of view and to mark the paths.





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

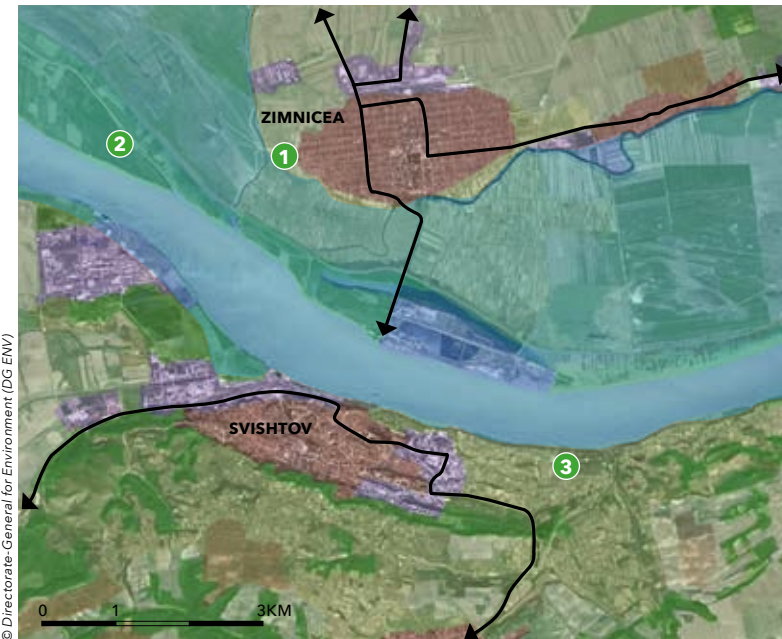
The cities of Svishtov and Zimnicea face each other near the Danube's Southernmost point on the Romanian side. The twin cities are linked by a ferry service mainly used by freight companies that want to avoid the crowded infrastructure around Bucharest. The typical landscape features of cross border twin cities can also be found here with a Romanian city situated on a flat floodplain and a Bulgarian city that spreads around mild slopes of a maximum height of 225 meters. The historical urban development of Svishtov took place on its hills without a direct connection to the river banks. Therefore, the city centre, the university and the administrative buildings can be found on its higher parts while the more recent industrial area is situated on its lower part. The vegetation is a steppe and forest steppe one with willows

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Archaeological site Zimnidava 2/ Natural reserve Lunca Suhaia
3/Antic city of Novae



and white poplars on the Romanian side. The area is well known for its vineyard and the cities surroundings' landscape is marked by intensive agriculture fields with non-food crops. Both cities are situated on old settlements dating from antiquity. Svishtov was founded on the Novae Roman castrum site while archaeologists think that Zimnicea is situated on the remains of one of the older Geto Dacian fortress built in the 4th Century BC.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

During the communist period, Zimnicea entered in a quick industrialisation process with the development of chemical industries, textile and furniture industries. These industrial sectors suffered during the transition period and most of them lowered their activities or closed. Intensive agriculture is the main economic activity with grains, vegetables and non food crops that supports a strong food processing sector (milling, meat products, milk, tobacco processing, etc.). One of the main Romanian company in the agriculture and food processing sector is based in the city and has renovated and developed the port's infrastructure in order to ensure the supply of its modern bioethanol factory. A recent port extension project plans the construction of a tourist terminal. Svishtov main economic activities are chemical fibres, cellulose and construction materials production, agriculture in its surroundings, and food processing industry especially for cereals, dairy and wine. The city is well known for its leading university in the country, the D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, with over 10,000 students in B.A, Master's and Ph.D. programs. The city has the highest rate of students among the population in the country.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Svishtov currently hosts more than 120 cultural heritage monuments. The Museum of History is among the oldest ones in Bulgaria and, together with the Museum of Ethnography, tells the story of the area's lifestyles, customs and traditions. Other important heritage sites are the architectural buildings of the Bulgarian renaissance period that gave the name of «Kyuchuk Paris» (Little Paris) to the city, the Bulgarian cultural centre «Elenka Cyril Avramovi» and the old churches of Saint Dimitar (1640), of the Holy Trinity (1876) and of Saints

RECOMMENDATIONS

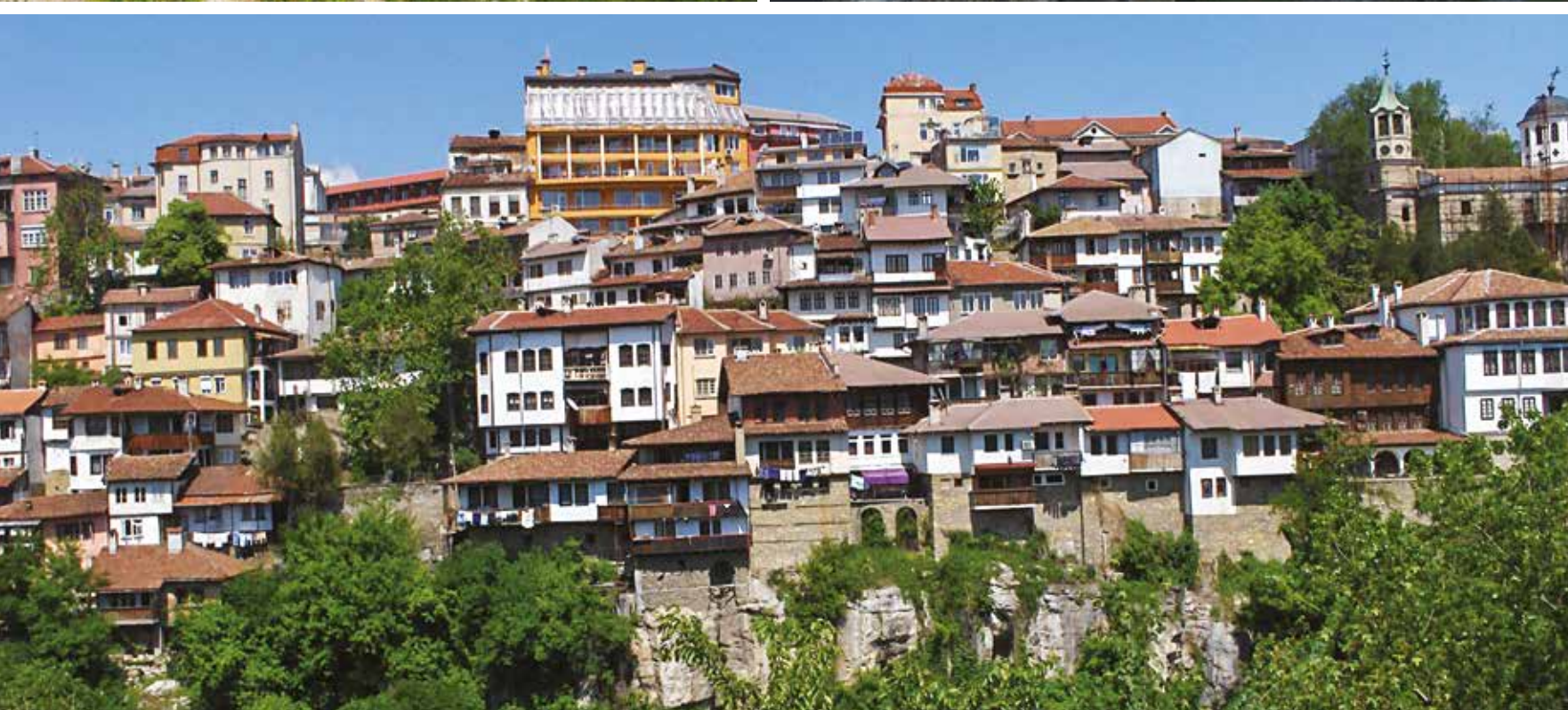
- 1>To develop nautical leisure activities in the ports areas
- 2>To promote the rich natural and cultural heritage and to enhance cross border relations through the organisation of common cultural events and festivals in collaboration with the Svishtov university or with the creation of common thematic trails on wine for example.
- 3>Create joint cross border management plan for protected areas

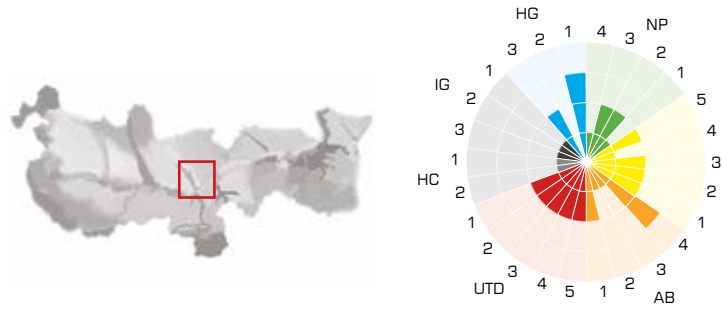
Peter and Paul (1644). The Svishtov monastery, situated, in the city's vicinity, is surrounded by a beautiful valley landscape. The Zimnicea heritage landmark is its archaeological site, with the oldest Dacian settlement found to date, called Zimnidava. The site was covered by a medieval fortification built during the 14th century and is near a Getae necropolis. The Balta Suhaia Ramsar site is closed to the city and is the home of a rich fauna and flora. It has a surface of 19,594 hectares comprising the Suhaia lake, swamps, canals, reed beds and an area of the Danube with dams, low hollows, oxbow lakes, and pits with temporary waters. A camping and an adventure site for children are located in the proximity of the port. Zimnicea's main cultural event is the Wine festival that takes place in February.

THREATS

Intensive agriculture threatens the ecosystem integrity and the soil fertility, while the decaying industrial landscape affects some areas' visual attractiveness.







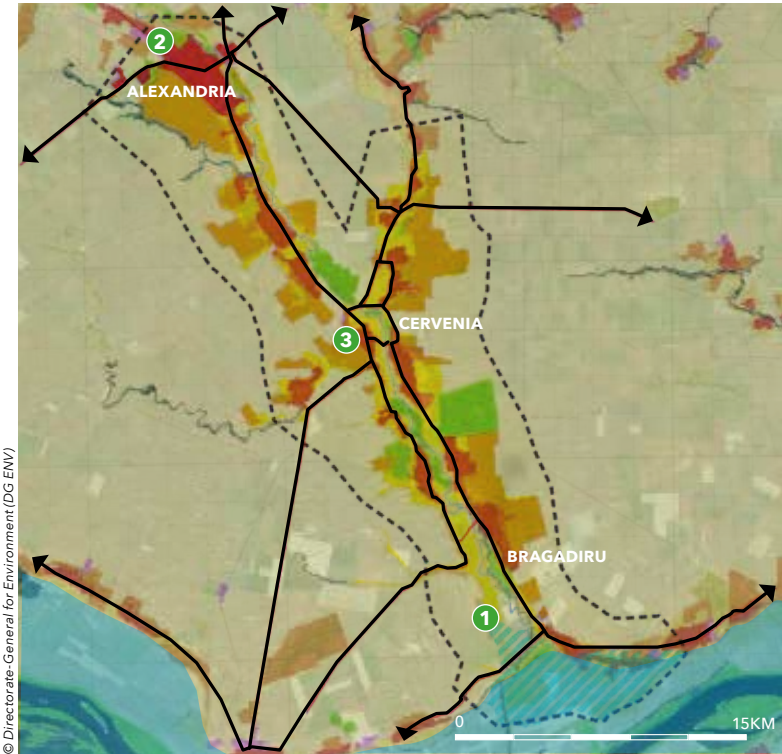
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Vedeia river, with its fluctuating but continuous flow, is the main axis of this landscape unit. The river has a length of 244 Km and crosses forests and grasslands through the Romanian Plain and then join the Danube in a vast meadow that belongs to the Moesica Platform. Concrete dikes are controlling its flows that can increase quickly during heavy rains because of its tributaries. The temperate continental climate conditions, the soils typologies and the presence of a micro-relief has favoured the development of a forest type vegetation with oak species mixed with Ash, Linden, Hornbeam trees specific to a plain relief. The River's lower basin area is a typical lower Danube meadow and is composed of forest meadows and river habitats marked by willows in the lower fields and poplars in the higher ones. The landscape can be read in a north-south progression from the classic communist urban area of Alexandria to the wilderness of the confluent area of the Vedeia and Danube rivers.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Vedeia Marshes 2/ Alexandria city 3/ Vedeia Valley



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

At the exception of the city of Alexandria's area, the Landscape Unit has a strong rural character. The Landscape Unit is mainly composed of arable land cultivated with maize, forests, grassland, rivers, lakes and wetlands. Subsistence agriculture is the main activity of a population that is attracted by the nearby city of Bucharest when looking for work, education or health services. The main industries in the area are linked to food processing, metallurgy and to the manufacturing of machines and equipments. Nevertheless, the area has to face a strong decrease of its population. The development of sustainable tourism and agriculture could be a leverage of growth for the area. Moreover, the Vedeia valley has not yet fully capitalize on its main advantage, its proximity to Bucharest, to create specific week-end tourism products and to develop accommodations for this clientele.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

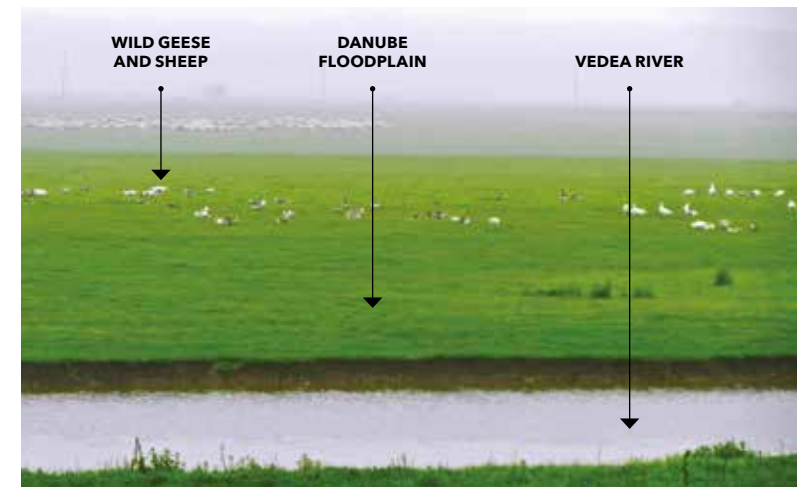
The main cultural heritage sights that can be visited are the Alexandria Museum of History with its rich regional ethnographic collection, the Cathedral of Saint Alexander rebuilt between 1869 and 1898 in the Byzantine-Romanesque style, the St Nicholas church in the village of Tiganesti with its four Russian style spires and Noica a typical 19th century mansion in the Storobaneasa village. The area is also rich in settlements representative of the Gumelnita culture, one of the most flourishing civilizations from the last half of the 5th millennium. These settlements have been discovered recently and are mainly situated along the Vedeia River in the villages of Brebina, Plosca, Nenciulesti and Tiganesti. The Natura 2000 area Gura Vedei - Saica - Slobozia and the Vedeia-Danube protected area can be visited and hosts numerous protected bird species and habitats.

THREATS

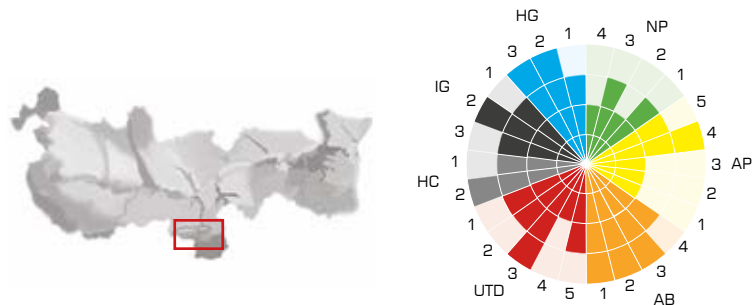
The current main threats are the conversion of natural forests into plantations of hybrid poplars or in farmlands, sand and gravel extraction and the important use of pesticides. Poaching and excessive logging also affect the natural habitats.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>To preserve the protected natural areas and to open them to sustainable tourism by creating thematic trails, bird observatories, visitors centres, etc..
- 2>To control the urbanisation development process along the River
- 3>To create a greenway between Alexandria and the Eurovelo 6



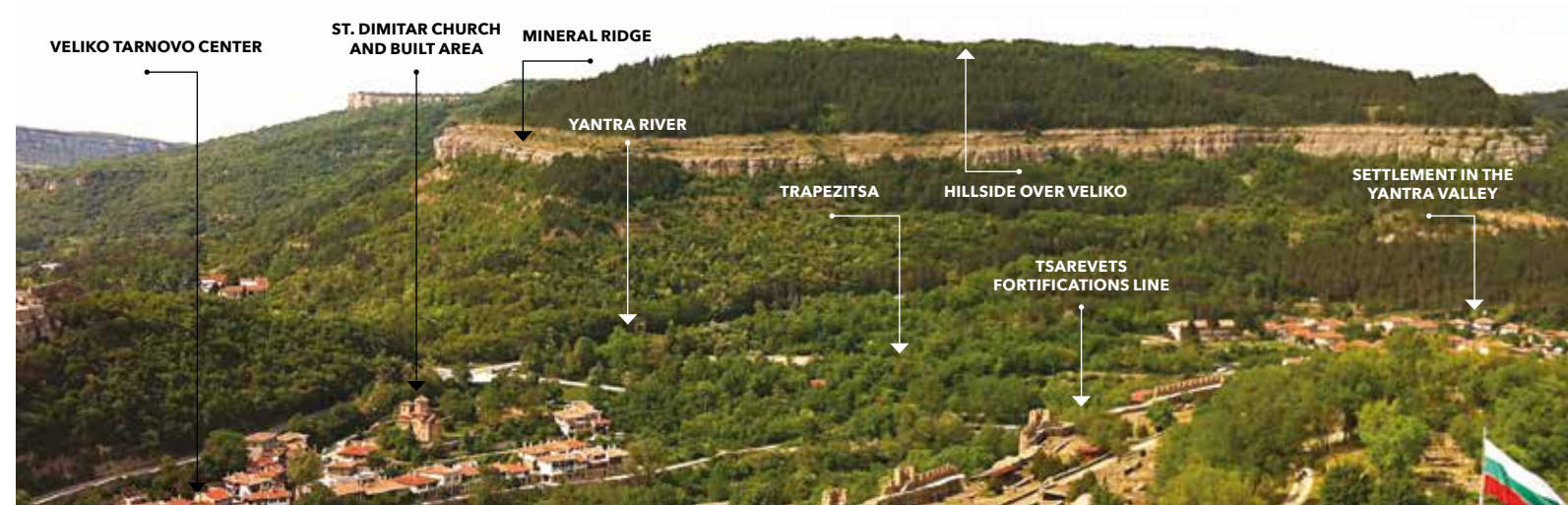
VELIKO TARNOVO PREDBALKAN IN VELIKO TARNOVO REGION



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

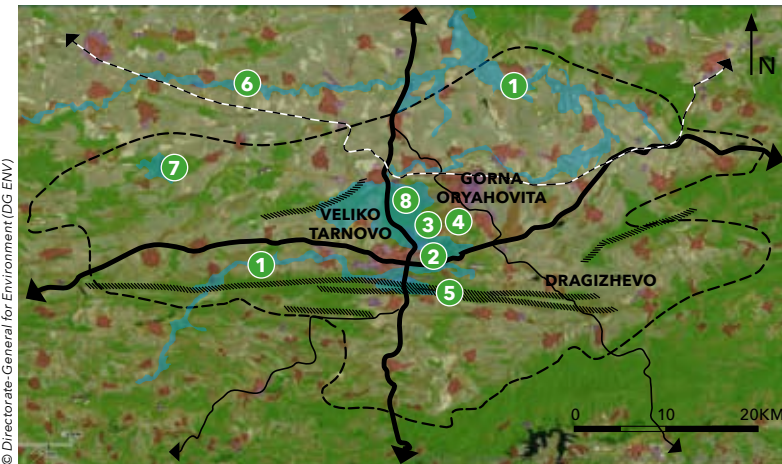
The Predbalkan unit, or literally the front of the Balkans, is a transition landscape between the Danube valley to its North and the Balkan Mountains in its South. Here, the Danube Valley smoothly encounters the hills and ridges of the Balkans, without any pronounced border. The area's landscape is composed of low and medium-high ridges, valleys, gorges, valleys, hills and swamps and its more impressive elements are the numerous rock formations, gorges and caves that are scattered on its territory. The most known are the Emen canyon, the Hotnitsa waterfalls and the Musina precipice. The average altitude is around 300 metres and the Landscape Unit is covered by forests composed mainly of oaks, maples and beeches. The main settlement in the area is Veliko Tarnovo, the historical capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire. The medieval city is situated upon three hills, Trapezitsa, Tsarevets and Sveta Gora and therefore offers spectacular panoramas. In the modern

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1/ Yantra Valley and Reka Yantra Natura 2000 Protected Sites (SCI)
- 2/ Park Sveta Gora - Veliko Tarnovo
- 3/ Tsaravets Fortress - Veliko Tarnovo
- 4/ Abanasi village
- 5 / Notch
- 6/ Reka Rositsa Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI)
- 7/ Emen Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI)
- 8/ Tarnovski visochini Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI)



part of the town, on a fourth and very steep hill, we find gold coloured stone houses, sometimes hanging over a void. Some of the finest ones are inspired by the Ottoman architecture. The Yantra River crosses the city following a meandered path that carved a sinuous valley and then

takes a particular straight shape that carved a spectacular defile South of Veliko Tarnovo. The smaller neighbouring settlements of Gabrovo, Elena and Arbanasi have become complementary rural tourism destinations that preserve and promote the area's crafts and specific architecture. The Landscape Unit will become the junction point between the future highway that will connect Sofia to the Black Sea coast and the European route E85 that connects Turkey and Eastern Greece to Central Europe.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Veliko Tarnovo is one of the largest cities of the cross border area and one of the few urban areas with a growing population during the last years. This university town has preserved a strong economic fabric, especially in the industrial sector. Textiles, soft drinks and food processing with the largest Bulgarian sweet company are the main light industries, while machinery, plastics and electronics production sectors have developed recently. Veliko Tarnovo is one of the main Bulgarian tourism and cultural centre and attracts yearly approximately half a million tourists. Tourism is also developing in the entire Landscape Unit area and is become one of the main economic activities along with agriculture, livestock farming and forestry, which feeds the smaller settlements' cellulose and fibre plants.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Listing the cultural heritage sites of this Landscape Unit would be endless. During the middle ages, Tarnovo the Great was the leading political, economic, cultural and religious centre in Bulgaria. Surrounded by its ochre ramparts, the Tsarevetz Citadel was the political center with the Tsar's palace and the residence of the Patriarch, the head of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. In the city surroundings, some of the most famous Bulgarian monasteries such as Patriarsheski, Preobrazhenski, Arbanashki, etc., can be visited as well as the archaeological reservation Nikopolis Ad Istrum - a Roman and Early Byzantine town and the architectural reservation Arbanasi with its preserved architectural monuments from the Bulgarian Revival period. The area is also well

RECOMMENDATIONS

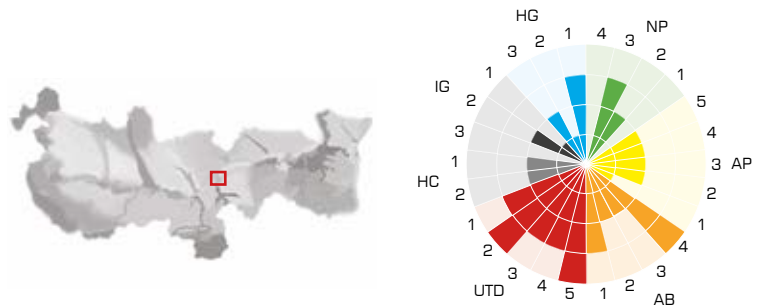
- 1>Develop urban water treatment plants along the Yantra River
- 2>Develop an innovative strategy to reduce noise pollution
- 3>Develop a network of greenways between Veliko Tarnovo and the surroundings rural tourism areas
- 4>Develop a MICE tourism strategy and a rich calendar of cultural events

known for its natural heritage promoted by its network of eco paths and its active tourism products such as rock climbing, mountain cycling or horse riding.

THREATS

Noise pollution is becoming a key issue in the Veliko Tarnovo area as the city is becoming an important crossroads. Urban and rural spatial development plans have not been enough controlled in some areas.





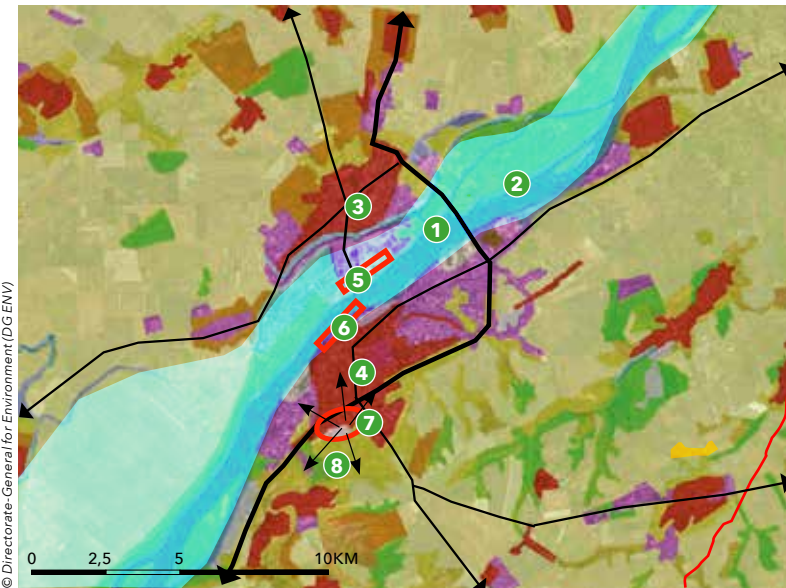
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Giurgiu and Ruse twin cities are linked through the “Friendship Bridge”, opened in 1954, and which, until 2013, was the only bridge connecting the two countries. Due to the proximity of the Bucharest metropolitan area and to the economic importance of the city of Ruse, the most developed city in the Bulgarian cross border region, this area represents a strategic point between the two countries with important traffic flows and also the main link between Romania and Turkey or Greece for example. The Giurgiu city is surrounded by a typical low and flat Danube floodplain, while Ruse is situated on a 70 meter high hill that offers a spectacular view on the Danube. The area was considered as a strategic place since Roman times when the Sexaginta Prista fortress, which is located on the current Ruse site, became the headquarters of the Roman lower Danube navy and served as one of the main military base to conquer Dacia. After a decline period, the city expanded again during the Ottoman rule and after the Bulgarian independence to become one of the main Bulgarian urban poles. The main landscape feature of the city is its system of public spaces ,with irregular sizes and shapes, along the main streets and that led to secondary radial streets.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Friendship bridge 2/ Danube valley 3/ Giurgiu centre 4/ Ruse old town 5/ Giurgiu port 6/ Ruse port 7/ Leventa 8/ Vila zone/gardens



This urban structure mixed with the numerous Bulgarian renaissance style buildings create very interesting and diversified streets profiles. The urban development of the city of Giurgiu starts in the second half of the 18th century under the Ottoman Empire rule. The fortified town was situated in the southern part of the modern city along the Plant canal and included an Ottoman port in the shape of a Vauban fortress.

The city entered in a quick expansion process in the 19th century and doubled its surface, between 1834 and 1922, by incorporating the Slobozia village and by extending its industrial area. The communist period brought a new town planning system with the building of social housing neighbourhoods.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Situated at the crossroads of two European transport corridors, the two cities try to create a common cooperation framework in various fields in order to take benefit of their strategic geographical positioning. They have created the Ruse Giurgiu Euroregion and finished in 2013 the ERGO master plan, a common development planning document, in order to design and implement joint projects. Moreover, Ruse has integrated Giurgiu in its proposal to become the European Capital of Culture in 2019. Both cities play a key role in the cross border economy, Giurgiu acting as Bucharest’s door on the Danube since 1869 when on the axis Bucharest-Giurgiu was inaugurated the first Romanian railway in order to accelerate the transport of goods to and from the Danube. The main economic sectors in the area are shipbuilding, metallurgy and mechanical engineering, production of chemical products, production of textiles and other sewing products, food processing and production, and civil engineering. Logistic, technological and industrial parks have been built during the last years on both riversides but their joint development is blocked by the fact that bridge crossing is charged. Ruse and its 150 000 inhabitants is the main urban pole in the Bulgarian cross border area and still attracts the regional workforce due to its industry. Giurgiu shared the common cross border decreasing demographic trend and suffers from the young workforce emigration to Bucharest or to foreign countries.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Ruse is one of the most beautiful city in the cross border area. Famous for its well preserved 19th and early 20th century Neo-Baroque and Neo-Rococo architecture, which attract many tourists, it was called the Little Vienna. The Monument of Liberty (the city’s symbol), the Aleksandrovska Street, the Canetti and Turio houses highlight this architectural legacy while an older medieval air can be found in the surroundings of the Holy Trinity Church, built in 1632. Ruse is also the

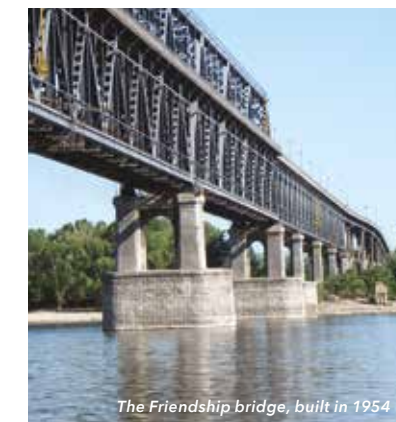
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>The development of a common landscape strategy between the two cities following the example of the ERGO master plan and including the Natural parks of Russenski Lom and of Comana.
- 2>To urgently renovate the Giurgiu Ruse bridge and to make its crossing free at least for the local inhabitants and companies.
- 3>To create a common Tourism Destination Management organisation and a joint convention Bureau.

main access hub to the Rusenski Lom natural park with its wide terraces that overlooked the Rusenski Lom River valley and its protected bird species, such as the Egyptian eagle, the black stork or the shelducks. The Clock tower built during the 18th century by the Ottoman to watch the surroundings is Giurgiu’s main attraction and symbol. We can also mention the ruins of the Giurgiu Fortress, the Alei park or the Railway street with its traditional houses.

THREATS

Pollution issues may appear, due to the industrial plants, especially the chemical and petroleum ones. Moreover, the Friendship bridge need to be rehabilitated urgently in order to avoid its closing.



The Friendship bridge, built in 1954



Clock tower - Giurgiu



Ruse



Public space - Ruse

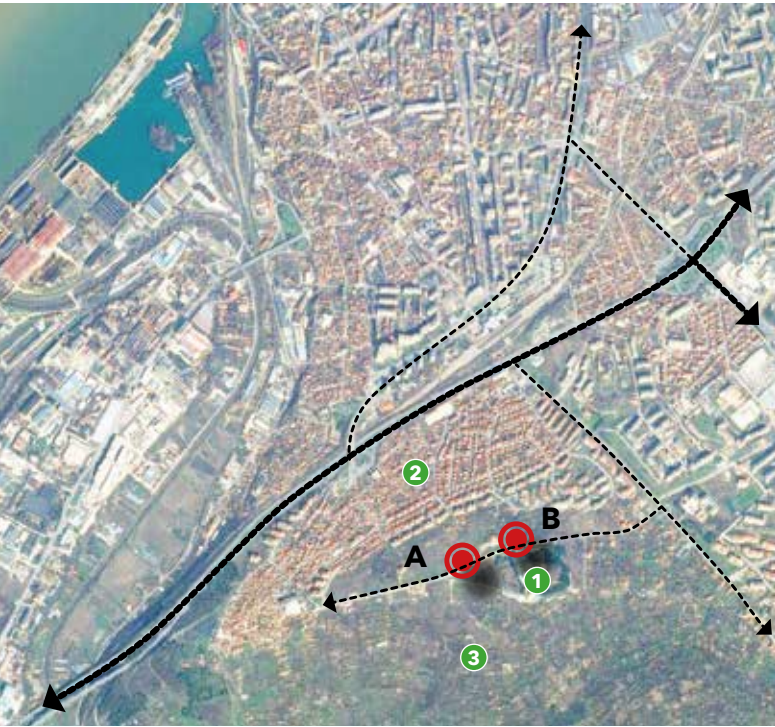
PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT AND WALKWAY LEVENTA RUSE, RUSE



RUSE CITY,
GENERAL KUTOZOV STREET
GPS > 43°49'31.52"N ; 25°57'17.11"E

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Broadcast tower 2/ GK DRUZHBA Residential area 3/ Gardens area



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SITE DESCRIPTION

The Leventa Hill is situated in the southern part of Ruse, in its highest area, situated at 159 meters which means 110 meters above the central part of the town. Here is located the tallest broadcasting tower in the Balkan peninsula with a height of 210 meters. The broadcasting tower is the most significant landmark on this site. Originally, it included a cafe that is no more operational due to the lack of safety measures for the visitors.

A panoramic viewpoint with a circular platform and a low concrete wall is located here and the visitors can enjoy a spectacular view with an horizon line located far in Romania. Although it entered in a dereliction process and even if the view is partially blocked by the overgrowing vegetation; tourists, couples and families continue to visit and enjoy this place, especially during the sunset time.

The area hosts a well known restaurant with a wine cellar and the hill mainly displays pastures scattered with pine trees.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



GENERAL PROPOSALS

1>A strong identity structure element must be built as Ruse is one of the main city of the cross border area and one of its main border crossing points. Well situated, the town can be considered as a crossroad.

2>The old panoramic viewpoint must be renovated and integrated within the landscape.

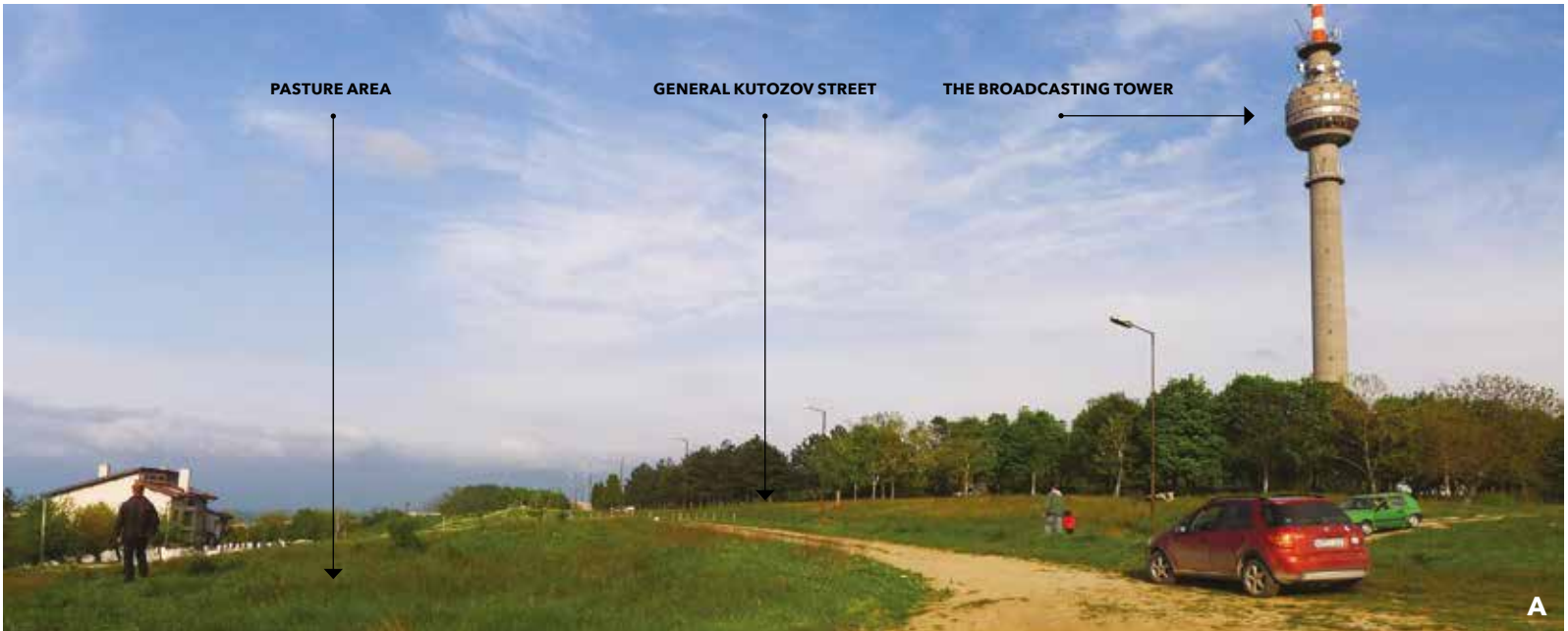
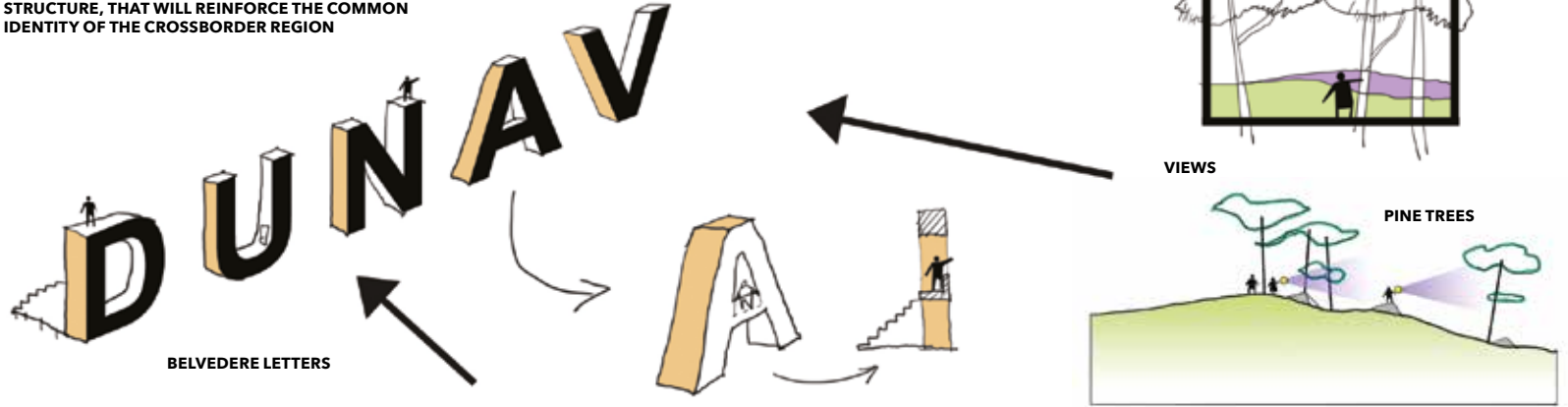
3>A new pedestrian path network should be built to connect the site to the lower parts of the town.

4>A signage system must be implemented with information on the streets and on the Ruse city to guide the visitors.



TO SEE AND TO BE SEEN

CREATE A STUNNING PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT
STRUCTURE, THAT WILL REINFORCE THE COMMON
IDENTITY OF THE CROSSBORDER REGION



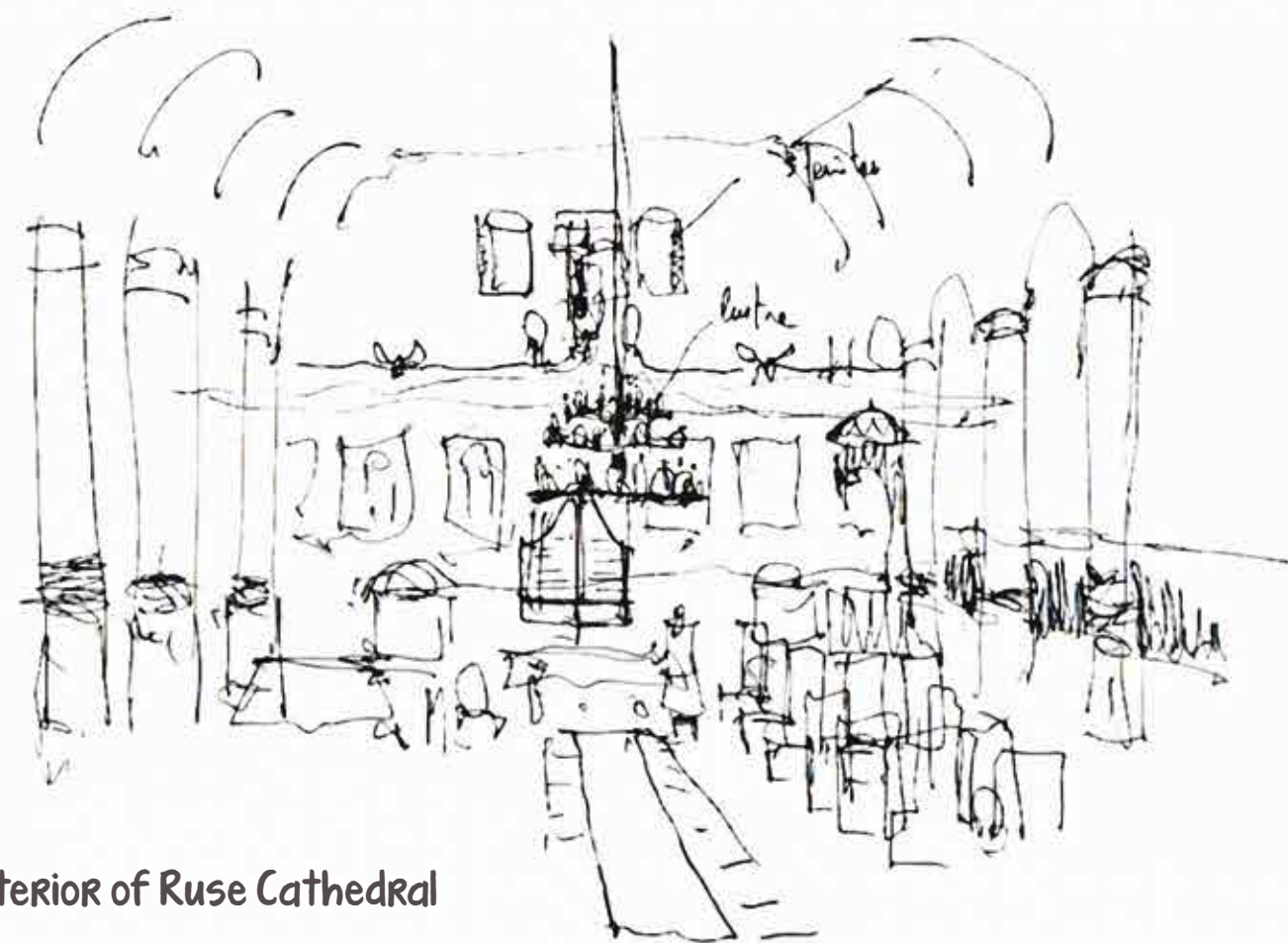
Ruse streets



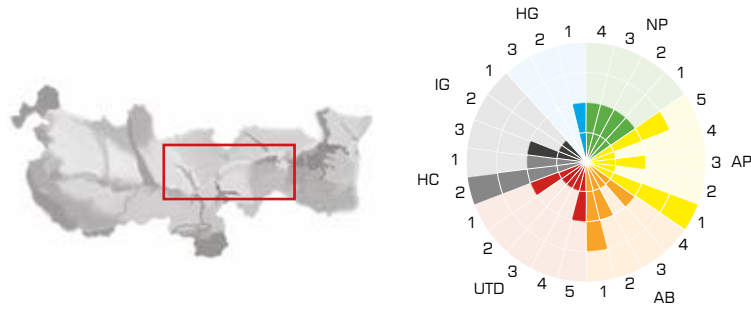
View from Leventia Ruse



Interior of Ruse Cathedral

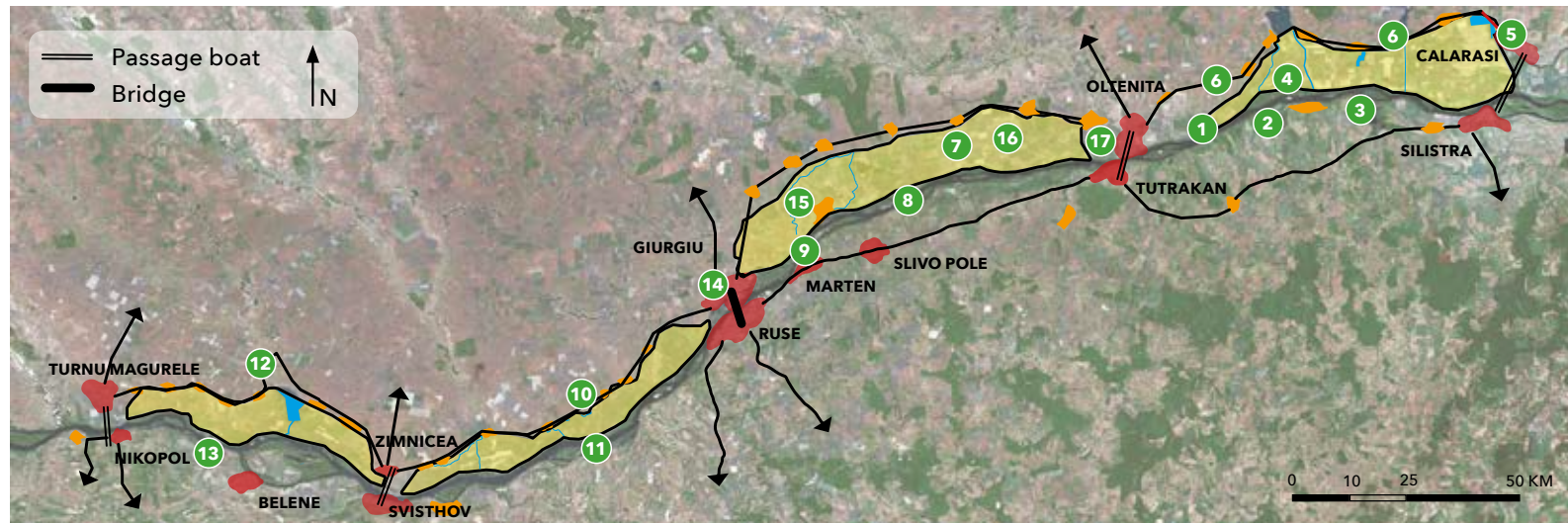


CALARASI, GIURGIU, TELEORMAN DANUBE FLOODPLAIN BETWEEN TURNU MAGURELE & CALARASI



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Oltenița - Ulmeni Natura 2000 Site 2/ Oltenița - Mostiștea - Chiciu Natura 2000 Site 3/ Ciocanesti Island Natura 2000 Site 4/ Dorobantu Channel - fishing area 5/ Iezerul Calarati 6/ Eurovelo 6 Route 7/ Dunare - Oltenița Natura 2000 Site 8/ Kalimok - Brashlen Natura 2000 Site 9/ Marten - Ryahovo Natura 2000 Site 10/ Vedeia - Dunare Natura 2000 Site 11/ Batin Natura 2000 Site 12/ Suhaia Natura 2000 Site 13/ Persina Natura 2000 Site 14/ Giurgiu Fortress ruins 15/ Gostinu Beach 16/ Cascioarele Lake 17/ Lower Danube Museum



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

This landscape unit is bordered on its northern part by several settlements situated along the National road, which is included in the Eurovelo 6 route. The relief is specific of the Danube valley section of floodplains and terraces. A continuous slope with a difference in height of 10-12 meters highlights the morphological boundary between the Danube floodplain and the plain. Moreover, the Landscape Unit represents also a transition between the Danube floodplain and the Danube wetlands. The area is characterized by wide agricultural fields, forests, trees protection curtains along the riverbanks, degraded lands and meadows. One of its specificity is the presence of rice fields. Therefore, some areas are crossed by a network of canals used for the drainage and flooding of the fields. The water is generally kept all year long in the canals that represent favourable feeding habitat for aquatic birds. The irrigation system, the trees protection curtain and the dykes are important features shaping the landscape within this unit. The site includes also several lakes, fishing farms and long sandy beaches.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Intensive crop farming and fish farming are the main economic activity in the area. Only a part of the wide rice fields are rented to private companies and are still used for agriculture while the main part are abandoned. The industry and service sector are concentrated in the cities' areas and no investments have been made in the «buffer zones» during the last years. Therefore, the local inhabitants are mainly attracted by these cities or by Bucharest for their economic and social activities. The area has an important tourism development potential but is currently visited mainly for fishing and hunting tourism. The area is crossed by the Eurovelo route 6 but very few accommodations and tourism facilities exist along the route. One of the main challenge could be to valorise the dykes in order to create an alternative to the Eurovelo route 6 and new leisure facilities for nautical sports and sun bathing along the Danube sandy beaches.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The area includes several Natura 2000 areas covering different types of protected habitats such as the continental freshwater rivers, floodplain forests and willow meadows (*Salix alba*) installed in lower areas, and poplar meadows (*Populus alba*) located on the higher floodable land. The Calarasi lake is a 550 ha lake fed by the Danube river and has been arranged for fish farming during the 1960's (embankment works, roads, etc.). It has been classified as a Ramsar site as more than 30 endangered bird species are nesting in its area. Another strong natural asset of the area is represented by the numerous but still non valorised islands on the Danube such as Haralambie, Ciocanesti, Soimul and the forest reserve of Ciornuleasa. Archaeological sites belonging to the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods (Boian and Gulmenita cultures) can be visited in the villages.

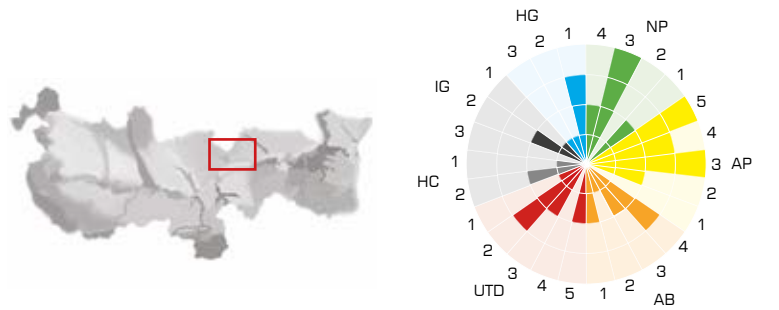
THREATS

The main threat is the pollution due to the use of pesticides and chemicals in farming activities. Intensive/illegal logging is a direct threat for the protected bird species nesting in the area. We can notice also a weak institutional capacity for fighting against poaching.

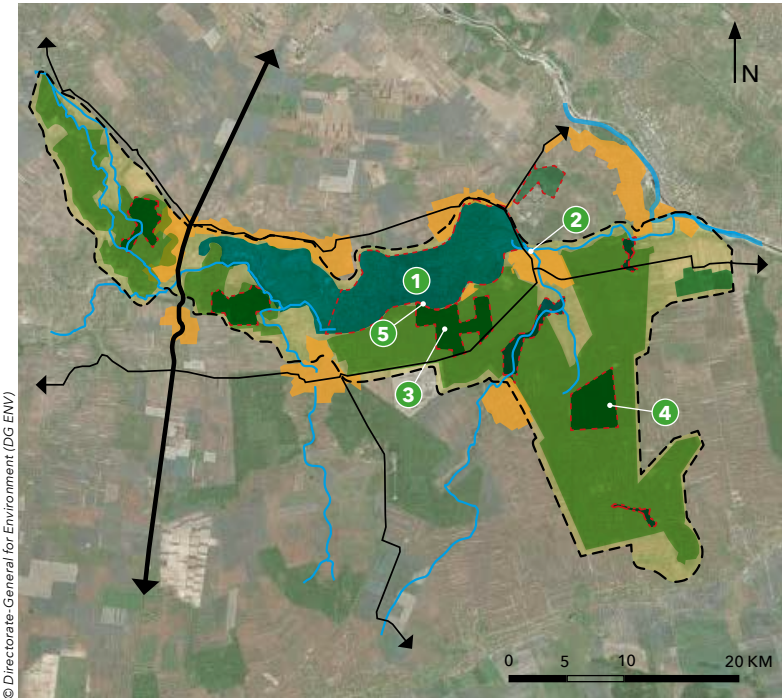
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>To support, especially through the Local Action Groups, the development of a network of small accommodations in the area
- 2> To reinforce measures against intensive and illegal logging
- 3>To keep the water in the rice fields in order to preserve the birds habitats
- 4> To develop tourism facilities and activities in the dykes area.



**POINTS OF INTEREST**

1/ Comana lake 2/ Comana Monastery 3/ Ruscus aculeatus reservation
4/ Paeonia peregrina reservation 5/ Celtic Village

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION**

Situated 30 km in the south of Bucharest, this area offers a typical flat plain landscape and relatively wide and deep valleys, situated at an altitude of 42-45 meters. The current relief is due to the Arges, Neajlov, Calnisteia and Gurban riverbeds diggings. The most well-known natural asset, the Comana delta more commonly known as Balta Comana - Comana pond, appeared due to river sedimentation on a perfectly flat terrain. The vegetation is rich and is specific of contact areas between forest-steppe and meadow. A humid climate characterises the area and hydrophilic species, like reeds, reed mace and pond lilies cover the water surface. This wetland ecosystem is considered as a perfect habitat for birds and hosts 71 internationally protected species. The Comana Natural Park spreads over 25,000 hectares and comprises 10 villages and the 600 hectares Comana Lake area which starts in the vicinity of the Comana village.

READING THE LANDSCAPE**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES**

The local economy is based on agriculture, horticulture, fishing, hunting and tourism. Small plots and subsistence farming are prevalent even if intensive monocropping agriculture is being developed in the area. Moreover, local residents are usually commuters who work in the Bucharest or Giurgiu areas. We can notice a sharp decline of the population because of migration and of a low rate birth. Due to its proximity to these urban centres where agriculture bio products become more and more popular, the development of organic farming can become an asset for the area's inhabitants. Moreover, despite its proximity to Bucharest, this area has never been considered as a tourism sight until a few years ago. Until then, the Comana delta was only an attraction for local residents and biking and canoeing enthusiasts.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Where the Vlasia Woods (Codrii Vlasiei) used to cover the plain, the Neajlov River has created a unique wetland ecosystem. The remnants of the woods, the Comana Forest, border this delta to the south and host numerous bird species that have made of this Natura 2000 site their nesting home. The on-site fauna is impressive with water snakes, foxes and wild boars for example. The Comana Monastery, built by

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1>Development of sustainable tourism infrastructures for visiting the protected natural areas: visitor centres, information points, campsites, resting places, thematic trails such as bird watching and biking trails.
- 2>To promote and support ecological agriculture practices
- 3> To launch active measures for the ecological restoration of the area and to strictly restrict hydraulic works in the area

the famous Vlad Tepes - better known as Dracula - is the most famous cultural heritage attraction and was throughout centuries the cultural, military and religious centre of the area. Several Neolithic settlements can be visited in the outskirts of Comana village.

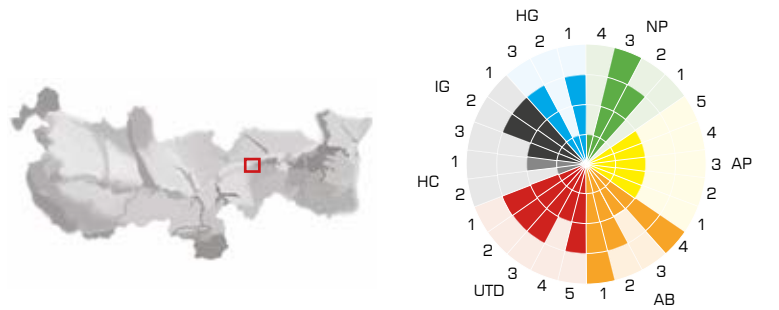
THREATS

The main activities that are causing negative impacts are poaching, illegal harvesting of rare flora, the use of chemical fertilizers and the development of monocultures on large areas. The waterworks network has negative effects on the ecosystem as it taps into the groundwater streams linked with the Comana pond.





ARGES RIVER near
Gradistea / GIURGIU



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

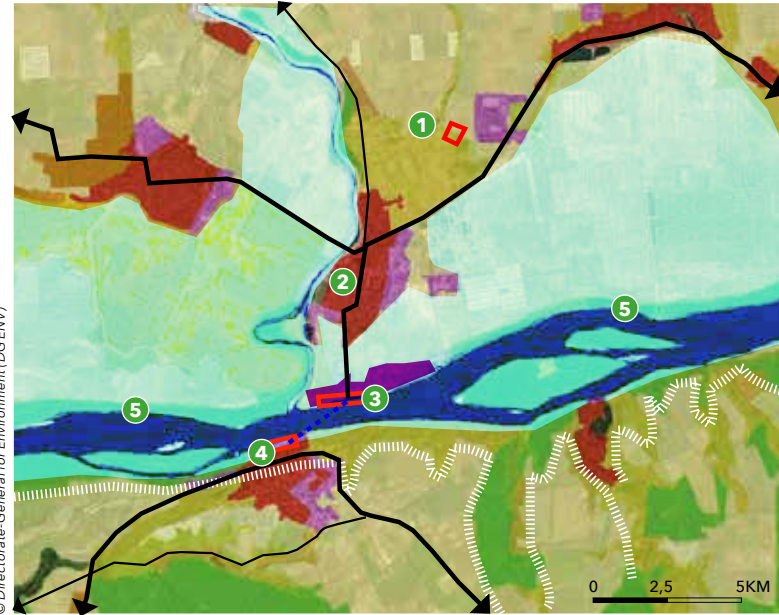
Situated near confluence of the Arges River with the Danube, Oltenita faces the city of Tutrakan on the Bulgarian riverbank. Historical and cultural links between the two cities were favoured by the narrow span of the river in this area. During cold winter, the river was usually crossable by feet. Today, river crossing can be arranged only for pedestrian and bicycle riders. The Danube cars crossing is only possible in the twin cities of Giurgiu-Ruse and Calarasi-Silistra. This Landscape Unit illustrates the typical landscape difference between the Romanian and the Bulgarian river bank, Oltenita is situated on a Danube's flat and low floodplain and Tutrakan on steep hills that overlook the Danube. The city of Tutrakan preserved its traditional architecture with small Balkan-style houses with large and colourful

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Gumelnita archeological reserve 2/ Oltenita city and Gumelnita muzeum 3/ Oltenita Shipyard 4/ Tutrakan fishing port and old town 5/ Danube valley



gardens. The hills' steepness, rising to up to 100 metres from the Danube's level, offers beautiful bird eye's views on the river and on the Oltenita's bank with its adjacent natural areas. Oltenita developed itself as an industrial port city during the communism period and as intensive agriculture centre because of the soil fertility of this former wetland area composed of chernozem, a black-coloured soil with high percentages of humus and of phosphoric acids, phosphorus and ammonia. Two Natura 2000 sites are bounded by the city's outskirts, the Dunare-Oltenita site to the West and the Oltenita-Mostistea-Chiciu to the East. River landscapes can be mainly admired from the port and the shipyard area.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Oltenita's port induced the development of industrial and processing industries such as ship building, light industries, food-processing, textile or furniture. On the city outskirts, intensive agriculture is the major economic activity. Tutrakan is the centre of an agricultural region with a small industrial sector mainly based on small ship building and food-processing. Agriculture is the main economic activity, while orchards and vineyards can be seen on the surrounding hilly areas. Leisure and subsistence fishing are also widespread activities on both riverbanks. The two cities have suffered from the economic transition period and entered in a depopulation process due the lack of job and economic opportunities. Both cities have a quite similar economic profile but have not developed strong economic links and synergies in order to create economies of scale in the shipbuilding industry or in agriculture for example. Even if Oltenita has become one of the main stop for Danube cruise ships due to its proximity to Bucharest, the area did not develop any tourism strategies to retain these tourists or even to attract tourists from the nearby city of Bucharest. On the other side, Tutrakan has launched an ambitious plan of renovation of its traditional architecture and the area is well covered with greenways linked to the Euroveloroute 6.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The Tutrakan city is built on the remains of an old Roman period settlement founded in the 1st century under the name of Transmarisca.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Creating joint tourism and leisure areas linked with the Danube in both cities with nautical and sport activities such as boating, fishing, cycling
- 2>Development of a common cultural events calendar in order to become a destination for the Bucharest metropolitan area inhabitants
- 3>Enhance the accessibility infrastructure and facilities between the two cities and the greenway network linked to the Euroveloroute 6
- 4>Develop sustainable tourism activities in the Natura 2000 sites

As a former important site in the Roman castrum network on the ancient Danubian limes, Tutrakan kept its strategic defensive role under the Ottoman Empire rule. It was also the place of a well known fierce battle during the First World war. Today, the fishermen's village situated in the north-eastern part of town, near the Saint Nicholas Church the fishermen's patron saint, is the main attraction with its 48 traditional buildings. This neighbourhood has entered in a controlled renovation process as most of the buildings are protected. Tutrakan is also bordered by two Natura 2000 sites, Kalimok- Brashlen to the West, and Pozharevo - Garvan to the East. As an old Danube port, Oltenita offer to its visitors various historical monuments such as the water tower, the Barbulescu house or the Victoria Hotel, that were built during the early modernization period of the 19th century. Neolithic archaeological sites of the Gumelnita culture have been discovered in the city surroundings and the city museum presents a special collection that focus on this fascinating civilisation with thousands of artefacts. The city is also known for its charming fishing spots such as the Albina island.

THREATS

Both cities have still not recovered from the economic transition period and the 2007 economic crisis. They need to tackle urgently the challenge of a shrinking and ageing population process. One of the main issues are the common lack of infrastructures, the modernisation of the port areas and the lack of synergies between the two cities.



PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT TUTRAKAN PORT, SILISTRA



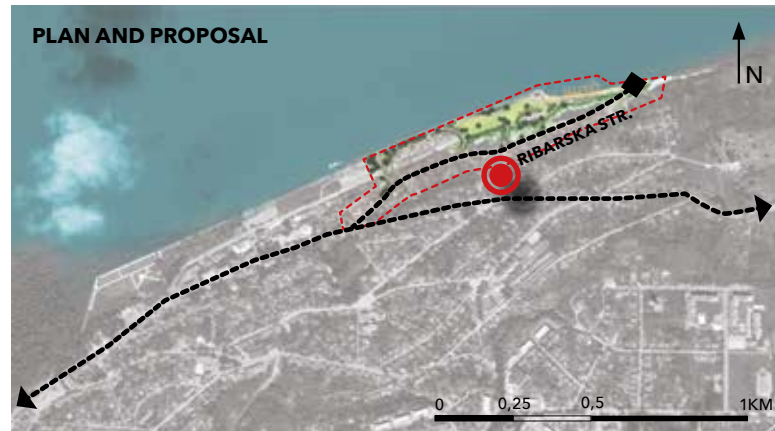
TUTRAKAN CITY, RIBARSKA STREET
GPS > 44° 3'11.39"N ; 26°36'57.48"E

SITE DESCRIPTION

«A landing dock on the edge of the water»

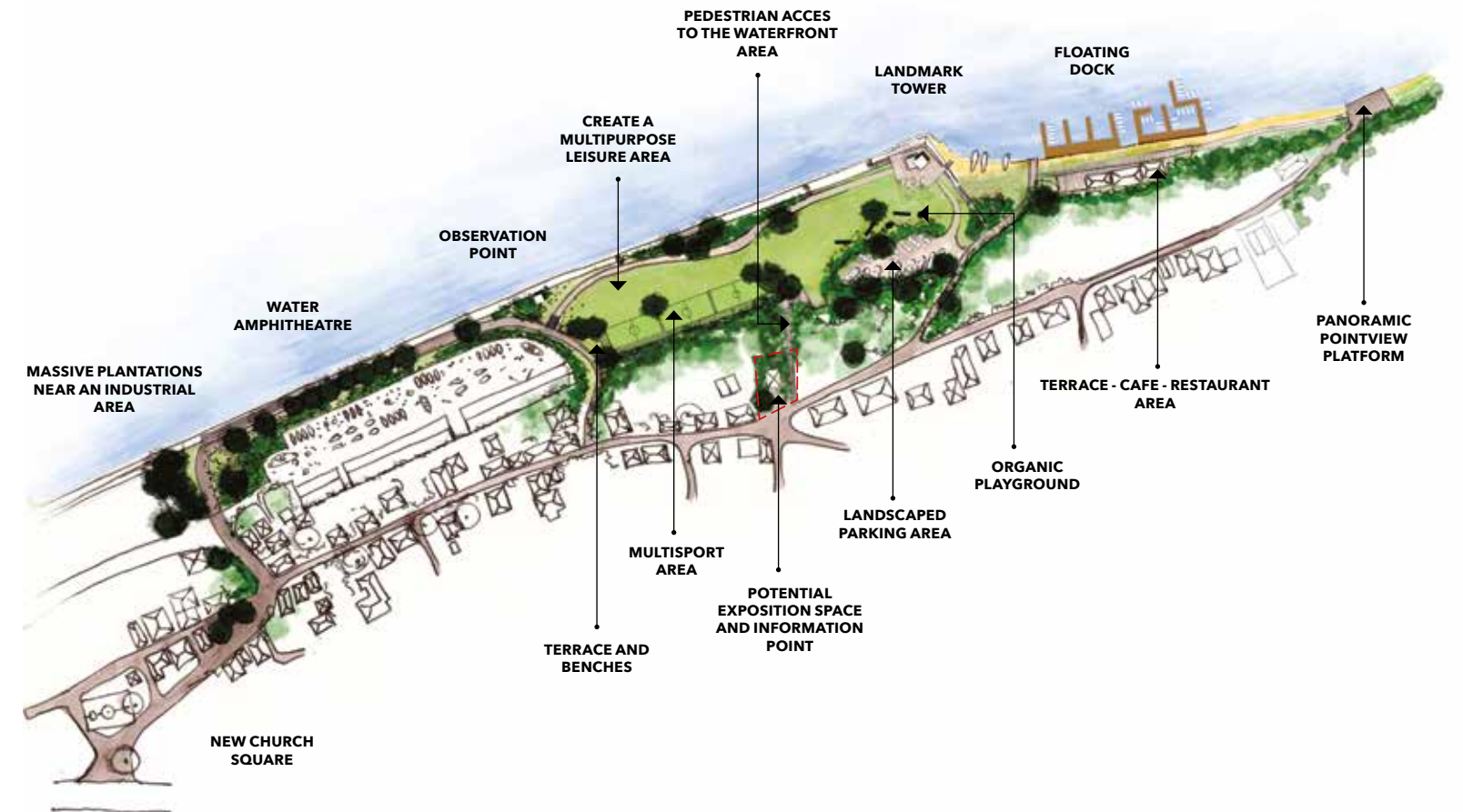
Tutrakan stands on an amphitheatre site on a Danube's steep riverside. The town has a picturesque architecture that illustrates its rich history as a Danube port. There are different ways to reach the river down from the historical town centre, which has entered in a renovation process. The riverside, composed of a diversity of decks and landing docks, provides a generous continuity above the water, appearing as a strip of land floating over it. Once turned towards the Romanian shore, any passer-by can appreciate the body of water stretching to the horizon and the dense line of poplar trees on the other side of the Danube. A panoramic viewpoint should be placed in the northern part of the city, on Ribarska street, along the existing road. The location offers a great bird eye's view over the Danube River and the Romanian side. Currently, it is used as a place where the fishermen keep their boats and as a lawn. The viewpoint is surrounded by a neighbourhood and will be used as well by the local inhabitants.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



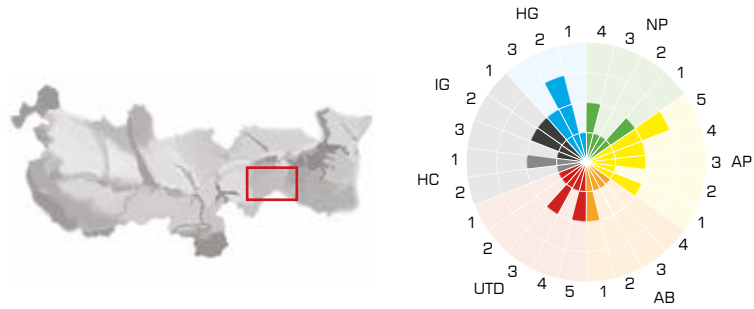
GENERAL PROPOSALS

- 1>Continue repaving Ribarska street and linking it with the church area and the Transmarisca street.
- 2>Create a new promenade linked with Ribarska street;
- 3>Redesign the amphitheatre descending to the water;
- 4>Plant a vegetation fence to better integrate the industrial and storage areas near the river banks;
- 5>Create a multi-sport area with small sport fields and equipments and an organic playground linked to the floating dock that will be used for water sports.
- 6>Build a wood tower as a landmark, an info point and a panoramic point that will be linked with the new small marina and the fishermen's area;
- 7>Create a landscaped parking area.





Fishermen village / TUTRAKAN



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

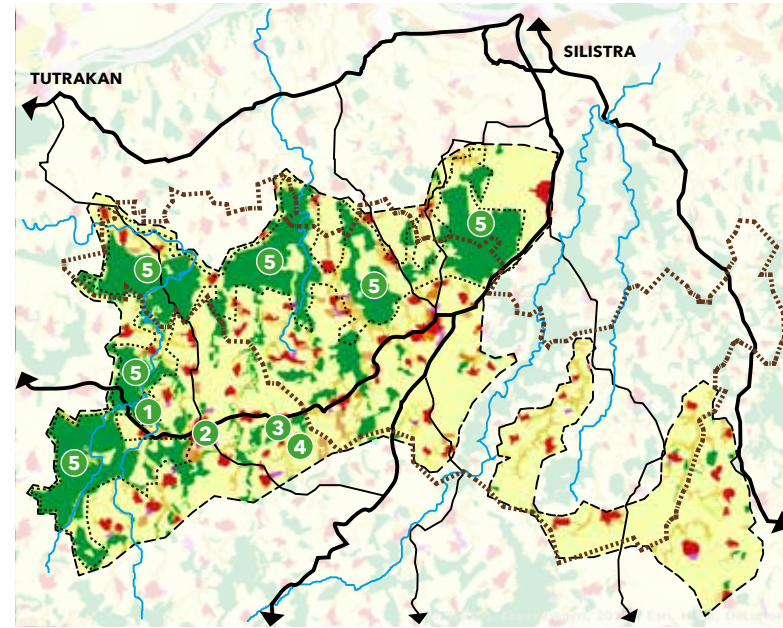
The landscape unit is part of the plain and hilly area of the Dobrudja plain and is crossed by North-South direction valleys. The area is mainly composed of low hilly plains with a forest coverage that is by arable lands. The central and the western parts of the Ludogorsko Plateau keep the remnants of ancient broadleaf forests and is formed of Karst limestones covered by a layout of loess silt-sized sediment. The area is crossed by few low rivers such as the Krapinets and the Kulak but is rich in underground waters. During centuries, travellers describe the Deliorman area, the traditional name of the area in Turkish that means wild forests, as a difficult area to cross. Now the forests are much younger and we can find remaining parts of the old forest in some scattered areas. The forest cover is composed of lime-tree forest

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Sboryanovo Archaeological reserve with the Sveshtari Thracian Tomb 2/ Ispirih ceramic producer 3/ Nahodishte na cherven bozhur Protected Site 4/ Bozhurite Protected Site 5/ Ludogorie Protected Site



around Dulovo and of typical oak forests and mixed broadleaf woods. The region was inhabited by the Getae Thracian tribes and is famous for the Thracian burial mounds and historical-archaeological reserve of Sboryanovo. The most famous tomb is around 2300 years old and is located near the village of Sveshtari. It is enlisted as an UNESCO World heritage site. Moreover, several Natura 2000 sites can be visited in the area.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activity in the area is agriculture as the forest has been largely replaced by arable lands. The soils are rich in humus from the forests that existed here. Grain, sunflower and industrial crops are intensively cultivated. Orchards can also be found. Livestock farming is also present with livestock growing and dairy farming. Some food processing units have developed in the area during the last years. Timber production is also an important activity in an area, which is also well known for big game hunting of animals such as the red deer, the roe deer, the wild boar or the chamois. The largest industry in the region is the production of ceramics in Ispirih. The main social issues are a shrinking population and the massive emigration of young people towards the main urban centers or abroad. The majority of the population belongs to the Turkish ethnic group.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The region is well known by the speleologists for its rich network caves, most of them being still only partially explored. The main protected area is the Ludogorie Protected site with its rich variety of butterflies. We can also mention specific natural areas such as the Myusterika reserve and the Bozhurite large forest meadow with their exceptional wild peonies flora, which are celebrated during springtime local festivals that take place in the blooming period. Apart from the Sveshtari tomb complex, the archaeological museum in the village of Pobiti kamani give rich information on the region's history. The area is also well known for its oil wrestling fights, a Turkish tradition that has been kept until now.

THREATS

The weak protection of the forest cover affects the fauna and flora habitats and damage the area's green corridors. The intensive use of fertilizers in agriculture is also becoming an important environmental issue.



RECOMMENDATIONS

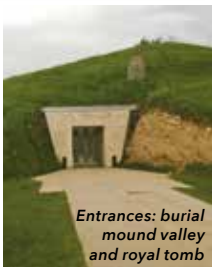
- 1>Create and implement strict forest management plans to stop illegal cuttings and poaching and to extend the forest windbreak network
- 2>Encourage the diversification of agricultural practices, focusing on ecological and sustainable practices (promote crop rotation, monitor soil fertility and pollution)
- 3>Encourage the development of organic cultures and livestock farming by creating local brands associated with the protected sites in order to promote the fact that natural areas are more an advantage than an obstacle for local development.
- 4>To train people in agriculture and wood-craft activities.
- 4>Create a thematic trail of the Ludogorie forests linked with the nearby towns with stop over points.



PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT
SVESHTARI TUMULUS, RAZGRAD



SVESHTARI VILLAGE,
COUNTY ROAD NR 205, GPS >
43°43'53.60"N ; 26°46'26.03"E



Entrances: burial mound valley and royal tomb



The «royal tomb»

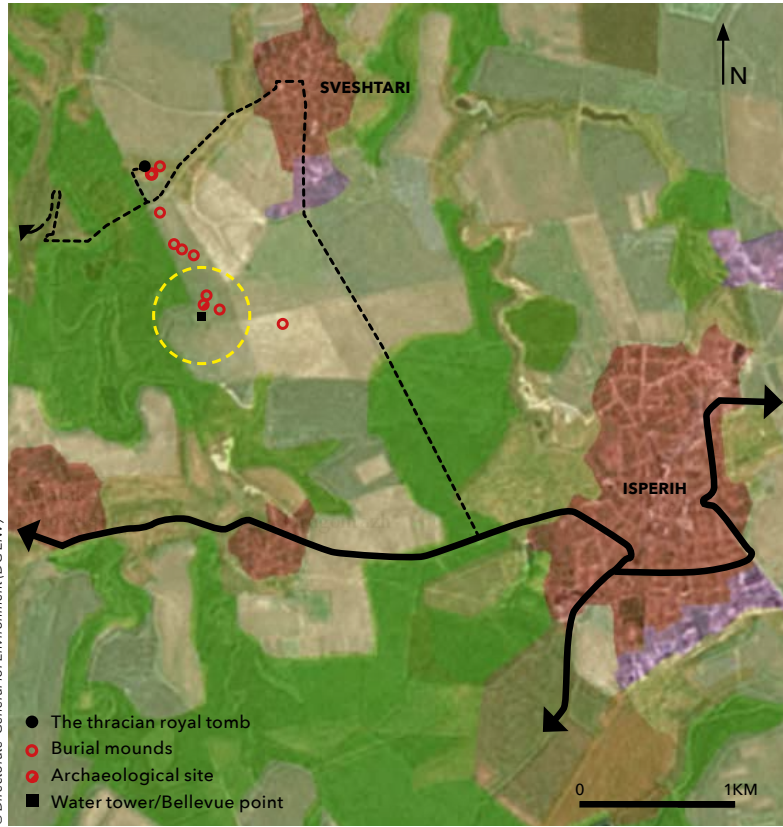


The burial mounds

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Sveshtari necropolis is part of the Sboryanovo Historical and Archaeological Reserve, located in the northeast of Bulgaria. Among the ancient Thracian burial mounds found on the site, one has been particularly noticed for his remarkable architectural and aesthetic value and has been named « The Royal Tomb». This 3rd-century BC tomb has been included on the Unesco World Heritage list and represents the landmark of the archaeological reserve.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



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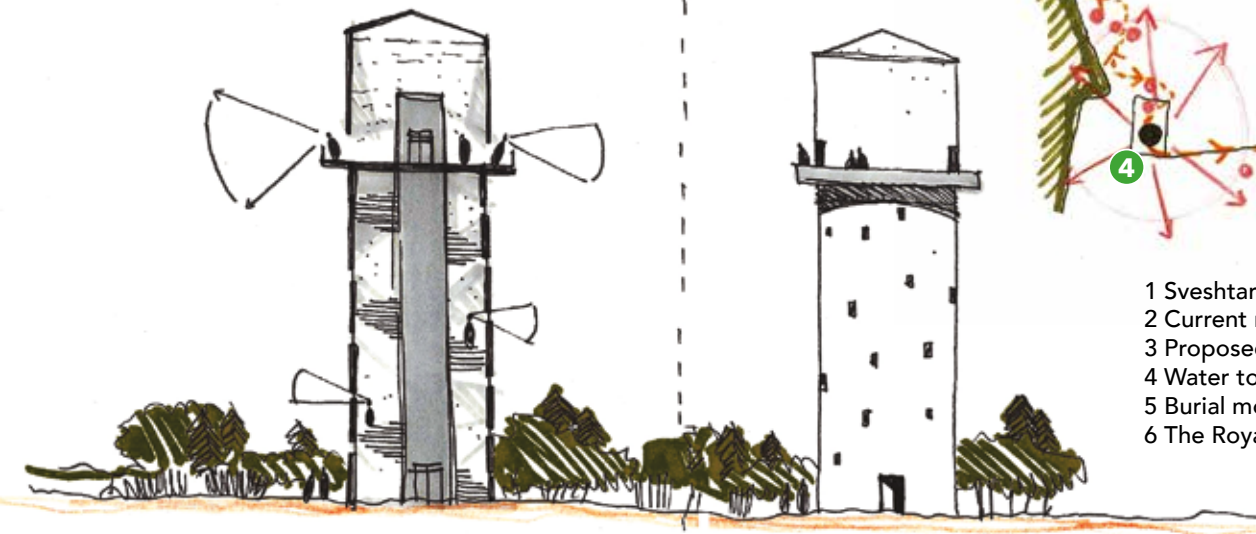
The landscape of the site is defined by the numerous burial mounds. These pyramid shaped formations, covered with grass, spread over the fields close to the Sveshtari village. Driving out of the wood on the road towards the village, one's attention is drawn by the high water tower that stands as a kind of signpost for the necropolis.

GENERAL PROPOSALS

The proposal is to renovate the water tower strategically positionned on the site and transform it in a panoramic viewpoint that offers tourism and historical information on the area. The upper part, a terrace, will be reached through stairs or even through an elevator if one can be built inside or outside the tower in order to enhance accesibility to this «terrace». Some additional light landscape interventions should be made in order to ease the access to the burial mounds (paths network, signage system, etc...).



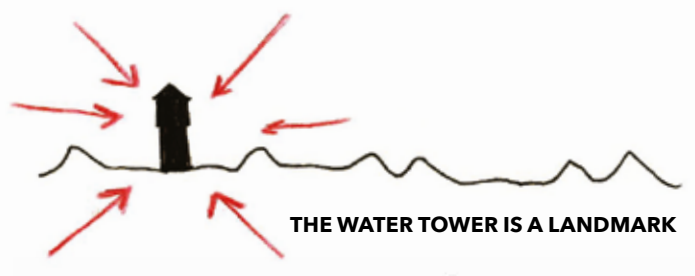
VIEW FROM THE TOWER TOWARDS THE NECROPOLIS



SECTIONS OF THE TOWER

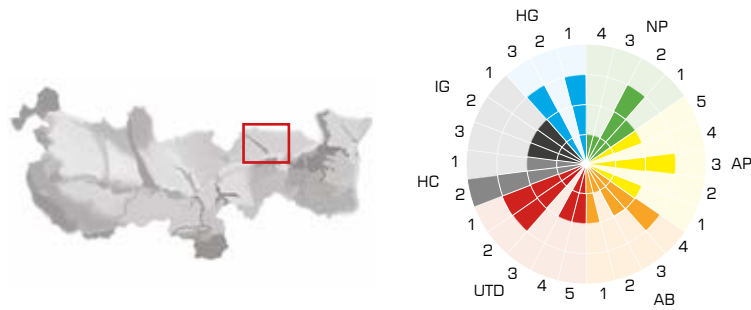
VIEW OF THE TOWER

- 1 Sveshtari village
- 2 Current road to the necropolis
- 3 Proposed path
- 4 Water tower
- 5 Burial mounds
- 6 The Royal Tomb



THE WATER TOWER IS A LANDMARK





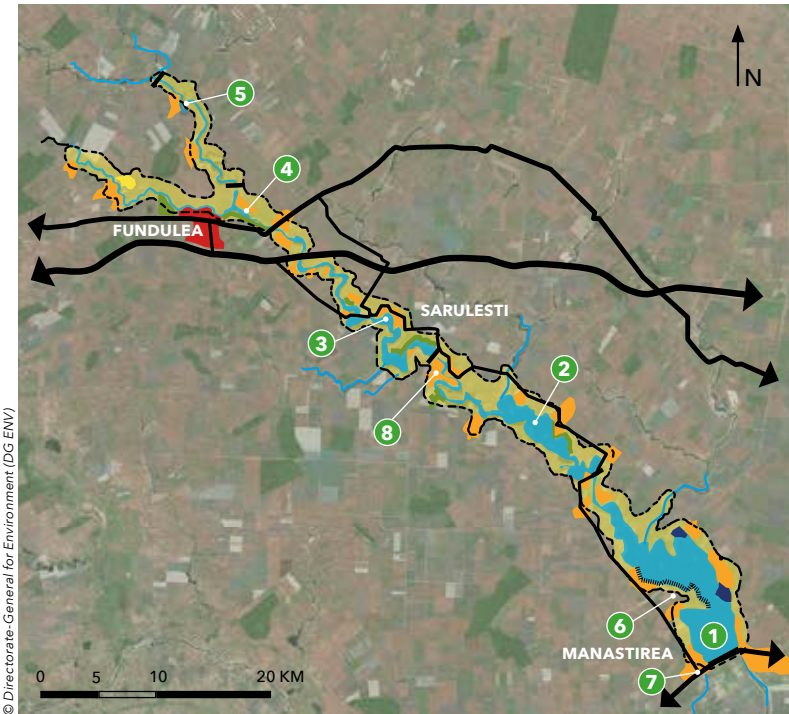
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Mostitea valley is located in the South Baragan Plain which belongs to the southern part of the Romanian plain. The area is characterized by low plains with shallow valleys that ends at the confluence with the rivers' lagoon. The Mostitea lake is a wide aquatic habitat with a surface area of 1860 ha. The vegetation is characterized by specific floodplain forest with white willows, white and black poplars and some specimens of ashes, elms and oaks. Between these small forests, we can notice grass meadows, arable land and areas of steppic grassland. The Mostitea valley is a settlement area since the Neolithic period and has been since then crossed by historical trade roads coming from the South and passing by the Bulgarian city of Tutrakan. The landscape of the valley has changed during the 20th century in order to develop agriculture: creation of storage lakes and canals, relocation of settlements and development of infrastructures (dams, dikes, roads...).

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Mostitea lake 2/ Frasinet lake 3/ Gurbanesti lake 4/ Fundulea lake 5/ Neolithic settlement, Gumelnita Culture 6/ Sultana-Malu Rosu archaeological site 7/ St. Dumitru and St. Nestor Church 8/ Gurbanesti - Picturesque village and lake's natural area



© Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The main economic activities in the area are linked to agriculture fish farming and trading at the exception of the city Lehliu Gara, which has a predominant industrial and commercial character. Mostitea Valley's agriculture is focused on cereals and sunflower or colza cultures. A third of the local companies have activities in agriculture, forestry or fishing while another third are involved in the trade sector. Livestock production is gradually disappearing due to the fact that grazing areas were reduced. The area is becoming more and more well known thanks to its fishing lakes and its international fishing competitions. It has now to develop its accommodations and tourism facilities in order to attract the fishermen's families and become a complete tourism destination mostly for the Bucharest inhabitants.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Numerous archaeological sites, dating back to the early Neolithic period (Boian and Gumelnita cultures) and continuing with those of the bronze age and iron age, have been discovered all over the area and can be visited in almost every village. The most important site from the Latene period can be found in the Sultana village. The area is also well known for its rich cultural and religious heritage with the «St. Nicholas» (1854) and «Holy Trinity» (1838) churches in Dorobantu village, the Church of « St. Demetrius and St. Nestor» (1648-1660) in the village of Manastirea, the surprising memorial monument of stone crosses on the site of the Ulmu village old church, the Silistea village mansion house located on the Argovei lake shores or the «Schimbarea la fata» church (1848) in the village of Sohatu. Important protected bird species nest and winter in the area.

THREATS

The current main threats are linked to the development of intensive agriculture responsible for the water pollution by pesticides and fertilisers and for reed cutting and stubble burning in order to enlarge the cultivated area. The process of lake shores erosion is also becoming a key challenge to tackle in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>To create a «lake» greenway that will link the Eurovelo route 6 to the Mostitea Valley
- 2>To support the development of fisheries products.
- 3>To organise the pasture areas along the valleys and encourage grazing
- 4>To support the development of accommodations and of tourism facilities in order to transform the area from a fishing to a leisure destination.



Carp fishing competition, new image of the valley.



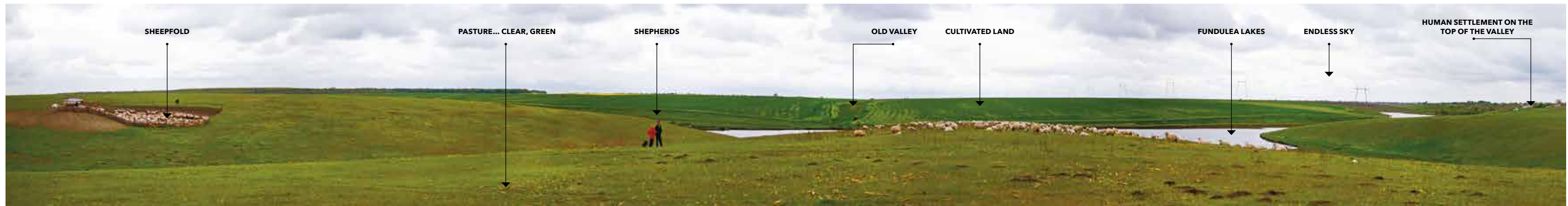
Vineyards



The location of the settlements gives a specific identity



Water and earth



PROMENADE & PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT SULTANA - MALU ROSU, CALARASI



SITE DESCRIPTION

The scenic viewpoint is located on one of the highest points above the Mostistei lake. The simultaneous actions of wind and water erosion have created a spectacular landscape, marked by the lake steeped shores - that give its name to the lake: Malu Rosu (Red Bank). The use of the lake as a source of water for irrigation is the cause of the increased water level. According to 19th century maps, the areas near the lake were used for grazing. The archaeological sites were then marked as graves. All the archaeological sites were found on the highest terraces of the Mostistea Valley, on the west side. The Sultana-Malu Rosu archaeological site is near Sultana village, closed to the water. Because of the shores'erosion, the archaeological site suffered and is still suffering irreversible damages.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST AND ACCESSIBILITY

1/ Gumelnita culture settlement 2/ Cemetery 3/ Boian culture settlement 4/ Mostistei lake 5/ Vineyard



GENERAL PROPOSALS

- Footpath
- Panoramic viewpoint platform
- Grazing area
- Bird watching tower
- Protected site with information panel
- Picnic area
- Windbreaks plantations
- Landscaped parking area

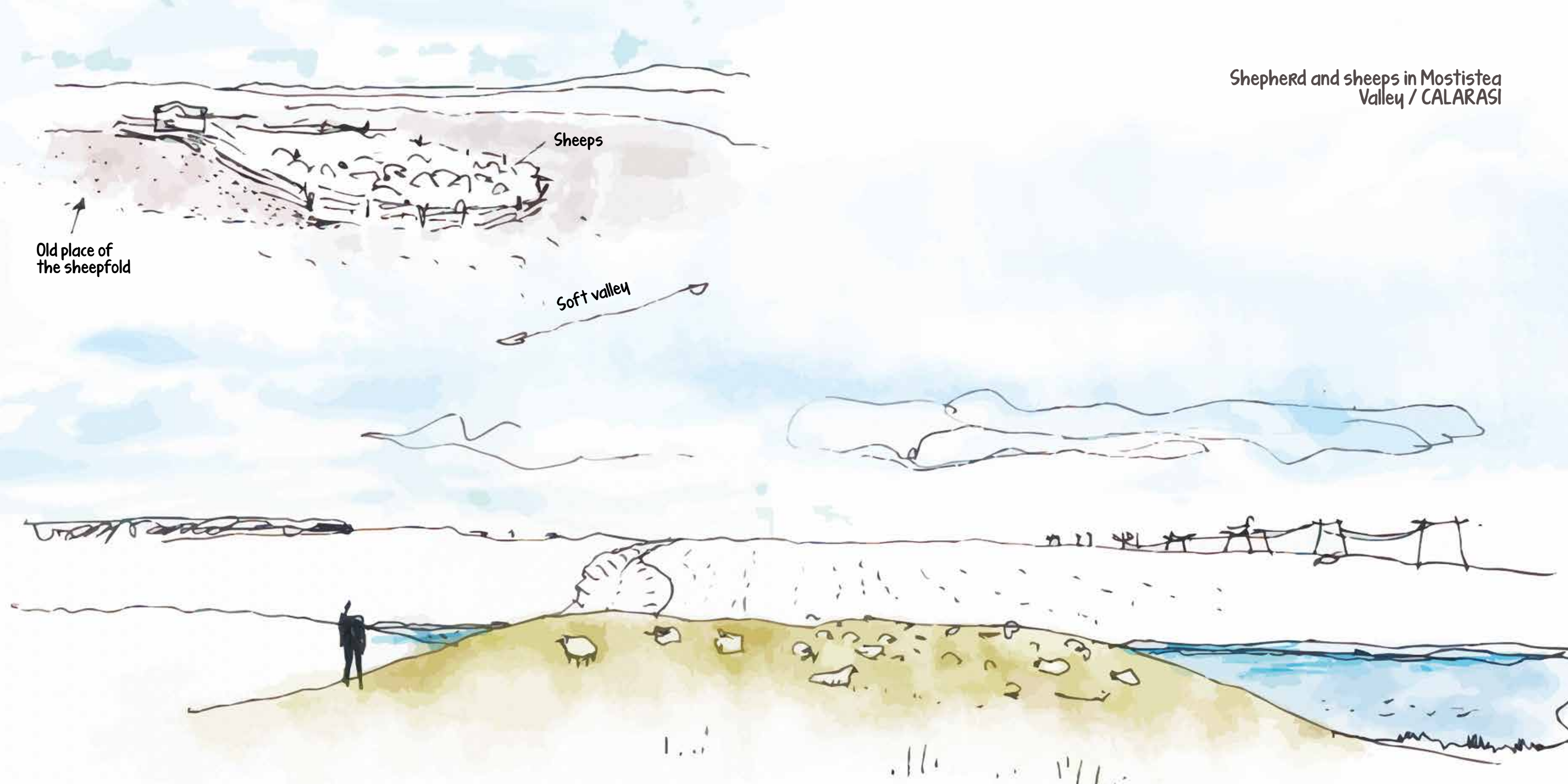


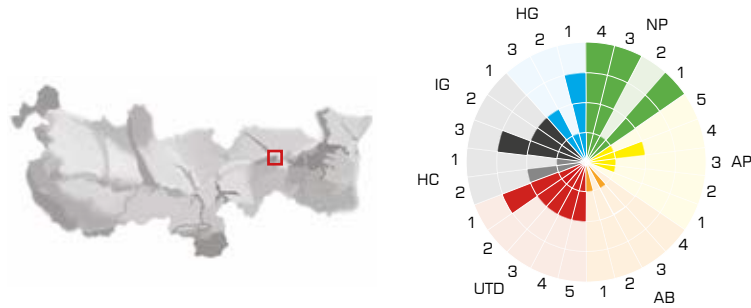
Shepherd and sheeps in Mostistea
Valley / CALARASI

Old place of
the sheepfold

Sheeps

Soft valley





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

Situated 2 km South from the Danube and 16 km West from Silistra, the Srebarna Nature Reserve spreads over 600 ha and is composed of a freshwater lake, a wetland that surrounds the lake and a forest belt that goes along the Danube. The reserve is included in the UNESCO's World Heritage list and is famous worldwide for bird watching. It is the nesting place for around 100 species of birds and also a winter refuge for migratory bird species such as the Dalmatian pelican, egrets, herons and ibises as it is situated exactly on a migratory birds' path known as the Western Palearctic migratory flyway. The Srebarna lake, as a typical freshwater Danube lake of the river flood terrace area, used to be directly connected to the Danube but a dike was constructed to separate the wetland from the Danube River in 1949. After a partial removal of the dikes in 1978, a channel needed to be built in 1994 to restore the connection and control the flows of Danube water into the lake.

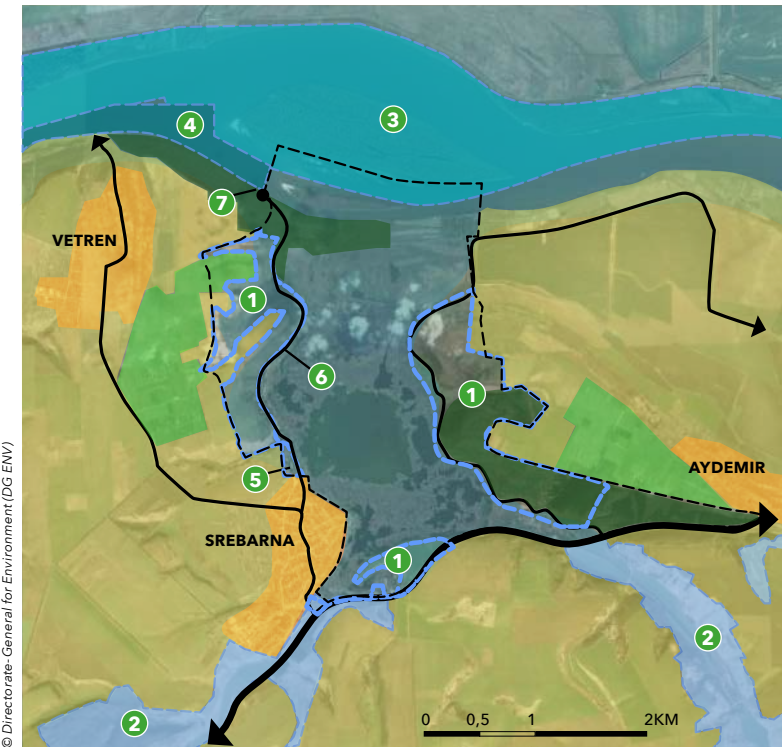
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The Srebarna managed reserve belongs to the Bulgarian State and is managed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1/ Pelikanite Protected site - part of Srebarna Biosphere Reserve
- 2/ Ludogorie - Srebarna BG protected area
- 3/ Oltenita -Mostistea - Chiciu RO protected area
- 4/ Pozharevo - Garvan BG protected area
- 5/ Museum of Natural Science
- 6/ Picnic and Observation point area
- 7/ Vetren - Danube fishing harbour



The Museum of Natural Science is the only tourism facility in the area and therefore its main attraction. Bird observatories have been built but otherwise commercial, tourism and hunting activities are prohibited in the reserve. The reserve is a restricted area and entering is allowed only with special permit but local people and visitors are allowed to walk around the lake at the condition that they strictly follow the marked ecopaths. Fishing is a very popular activity on the Danube riverbanks and a fishing spot has been created in the south-western part of the reserve. A few tourist accommodations can be found in the area and in the village of Srebarna. Along with fishing, subsistence farming is the main economic activity.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The Srebarna reserve hosts approximately 233 protected bird species, 80% of them migratory, and 10% of the worldwide population of Dalmatian pelican. The site shelters also an impressive mammal fauna with amongst others: otters, polecats, wildcats, jackals and muskrats. They can be observed by either taking the ecotrail that goes along the reserve or by watching the footage of the cameras placed in the reserve. An archaeological site dating from the Roman period can be visited in the village of Vetren that is a worth visiting destination thanks to the preservation of its rich immaterial heritage.

THREATS

The main challenge remains to enhance the connection with the Danube which determines for example the extension of reed islands that gives access to mammals and threatened birds populations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Create common management plans with neighbouring Natura 2000 areas such as the Oltenita-Mostistea-Chiciu area in order to create and preserve green corridors between the protected areas, to design common sustainable and innovative tourism facilities and to launch common cross border tourism offers
- 2>Support the local population in the development of sustainable economic initiatives that will take benefit of the reserve existence such as the creation of a label for agriculture and fishing products
- 3>Restore a supplying water system closer to its natural state



REST AREA SREBARNA NATURAL RESERVE, SILISTRA



SREBARNA VILLAGE,
NATIONAL ROAD NO 21
GPS > 44° 5'42.74"N ; 27° 5'12.63"E

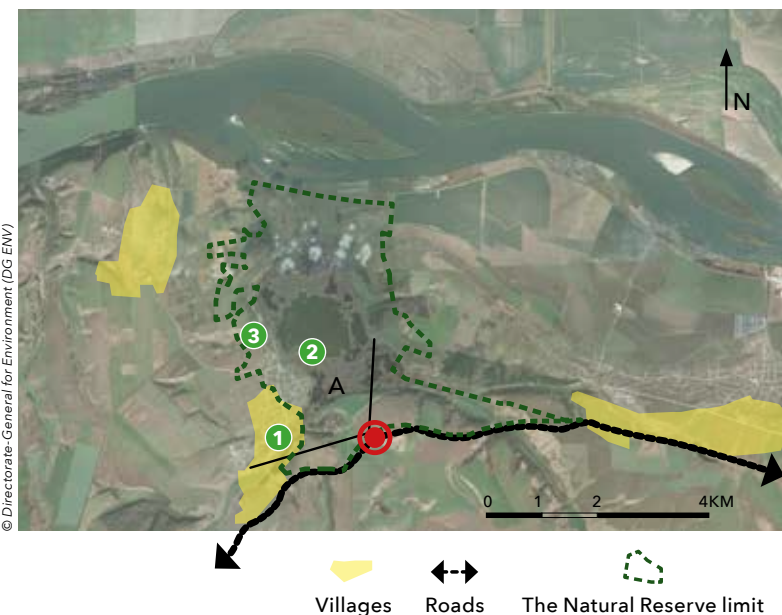
SITE DESCRIPTION

The Srebarna Nature Reserve is a freshwater lake that extends over 600 hectares and is home to numerous species of birds. This Ramsar and Unesco's World Heritage site is a perfect shelter for protected species of birds, especially during the winter's migration period. Nicknamed «El Dorado of Birds» by ornithologists, the site is adjacent to the Danube. The reserve is of an obvious interest with already existing special viewpoints for ornithological observation. On the road from Silistra, an already existing rest area could be renovated easily in order to create a very accessible panoramic viewpoint that will satisfy travellers, tourists as well as nature enthusiasts. From this rest area, visitors can have a panoramic view of the whole valley with the reeds' floating islands, the Srebarna's village red roofs, the white building of the Nature Museum and the line of poplar plantations that frames the lake in the far end of the valley drawing the Danube riverbank. The roadside vegetation currently hinders the perception of the surrounding landscape and the first action must be to trim it.

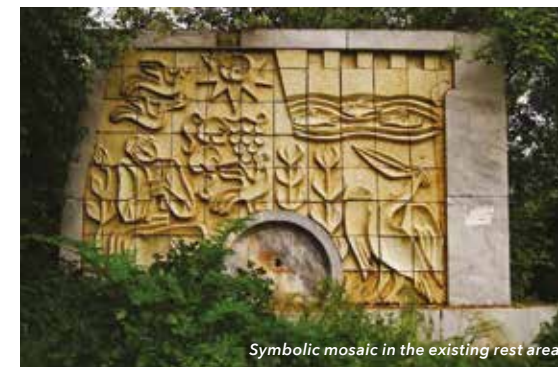
READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

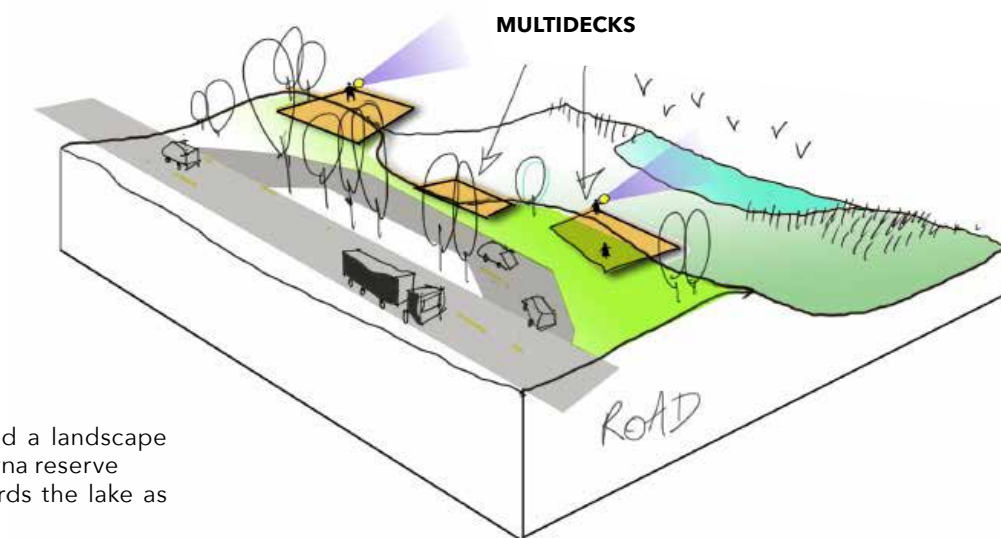
1/ Srebarna village 2/ The lake with the floating islands of reed
3/ Birdwatching - only with optics



A narrowed view



Symbolic mosaic in the existing rest area



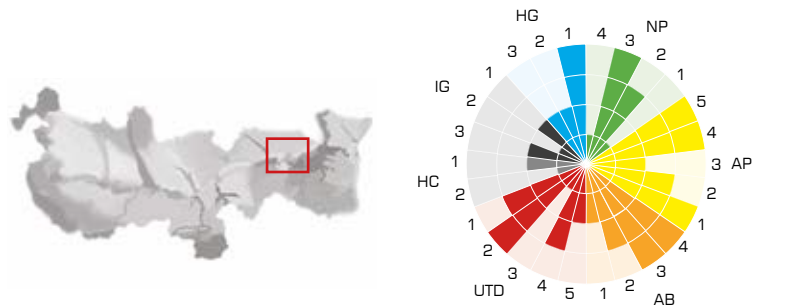
GENERAL PROPOSALS

1>To set up the rest area as an ornithological and a landscape observatory with specific information on the Srebarna reserve
2>To build different platforms that descend towards the lake as observation points.



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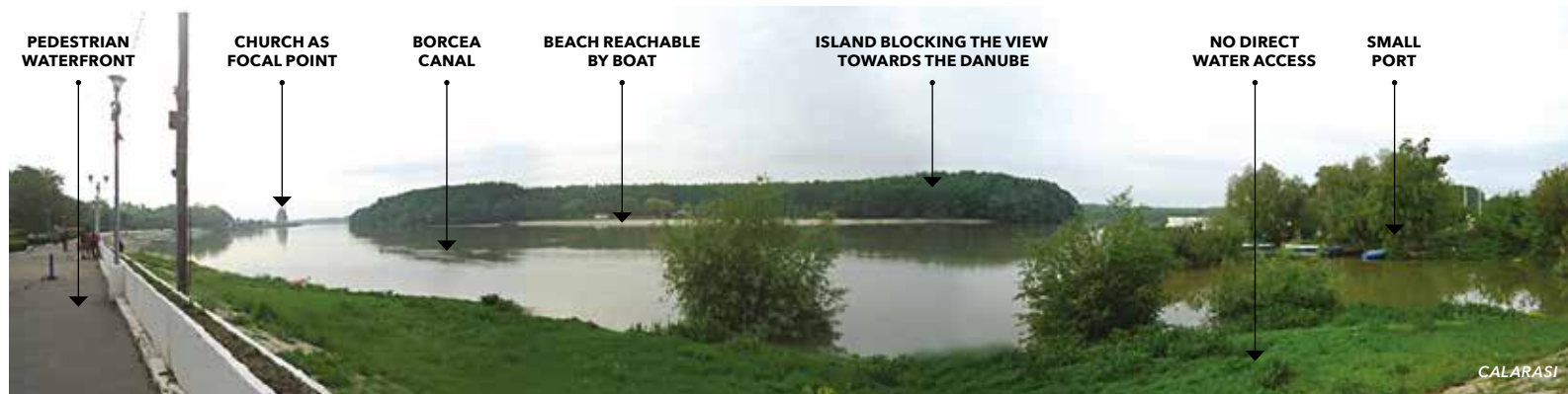




LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

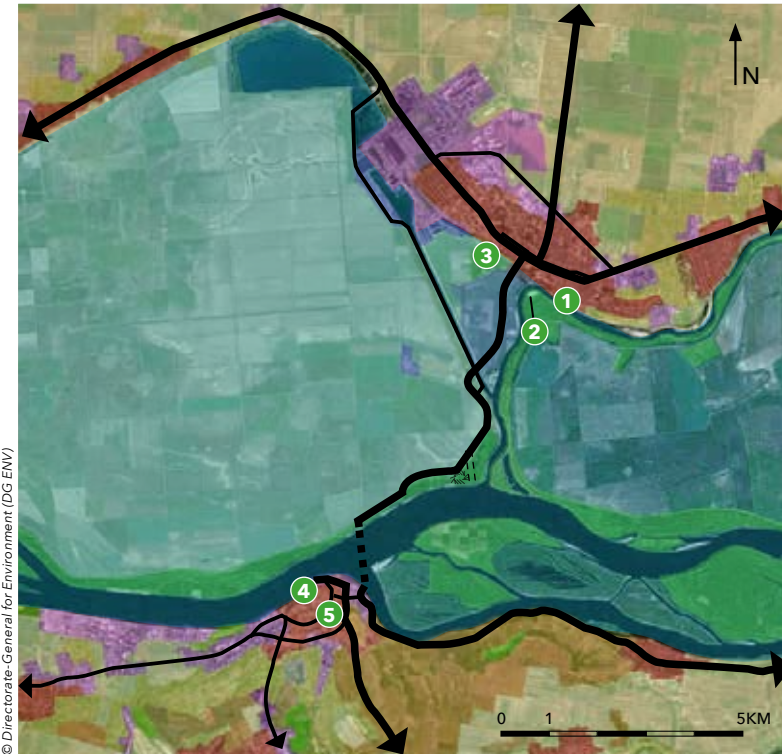
Silistra is situated on the Danube on a low Danubian terrace in the most north-eastern part of Bulgaria and is bordering Romania on land and water. The landscape here is flat and open and surrounded by low hills, among which the higher one is situated about 1.5 km from the Danube in the south of the city. On its top, we can find the old Turkish fortress Medjidi Tabia elevated around 100m above the city. The city mainly expanded on its southern hillside part throughout centuries for defensive reasons. Silistra is one of the oldest Bulgarian cities. The Roman fortress of Durostorum was established on a former Thracian settlement. Its landscape is often marked by numerous ancient Roman remains, such as a 15 km Roman road, that illustrate the importance of Durostorum, which got the administrative privileged statute of self-governing city. In the following centuries, the city kept its importance in the Bulgarian First Empire period and was also an important religious centre. Calarasi is situated on a Lower Danube terrace on the left bank of the Borcea branch. The area is at the junction point between a steppe grassland and a pond area with varied and rich vegetation. The city was mentioned for the first time in the beginning of the 18th century and started to develop in the middle of the 19th century.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ The pedestrian path along the Borcea Branch 2/ The beach on the Borcea Branch, reachable by boat 3/ The parks and gardens built under the Danube cornice 4/ The antique and medieval Durostorum fortress and its park 5/ The Turkish fort from the 19th century



© Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Both cities were important regional industrial poles during the communism period and suffered during the transition period and again after the 2008 economic crisis. Most of the main industrial facilities have closed during the last 20 years and both cities, especially Silistra, have a strong decrease of their population. The main economic activities in Silistra are currently food processing, textiles, construction materials and transport. Agriculture is a traditional and very important sector in the surrounding area with wheat and sunflower crops, fruit (the apricots are typical for the region) and wine production. The city of Calarasi was divided in functional zones devoted to various sections of heavy and light industries such as food processing, melamine chipboard, steel, paper, glass and concrete precast industries.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The twin cities are complementary regarding their tourism potential. Silistra offers a rich cultural heritage with its scattered Roman ruins in the Durostorum architectural and archaeological reserve, with the famous Medjidi Tabia Ottoman fortress or its museum of Regional History. Calarasi is situated along rich Natura 2000 sites that can be linked to the Silver biosphere reserve on the Bulgarian side to create joint ecotourism products. The city offers unique spots to enjoy water leisure activities with its sandy beaches and sport infrastructures. As the landscape is marked by abandoned industrial plants, industrial heritage can be developed with landmarks such as the SIDERCA factory that used to employ more than 6 000 persons and was one of the largest steel plant in Europe.



Lakes and natural area near Calarasi city

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Create a common landscape management plan for these twin cities with large green areas and parks and surrounded by Natura 2000 sites. This plan should also focus on the creation of secondary greenways networks that will be linked to the Euroveloroute 6.
- 2>Find a sustainable rehabilitation solution for the abandoned industrial sites through their integration in urban renovation plan or in an industrial heritage strategy.
- 4>Develop joint cultural and natural heritage tourism products such as common tickets for the Calarasi lower Danube museum and the Silistra Regional history museum.
- 5>Develop joint festivals and cultural events to foster the relations between the twin cities inhabitants and attract tourists from the Bucharest area.

THREATS

The main threat is linked to the depopulation trend of these two cities that are living in a permanent economic crisis since the fall of communism.



CALARASI CALARASI CENTRAL PARK PROMENADE



CALARASI CITY,
NATIONAL ROAD NO 3
GPS > 44O11'22.25' ; 27O19'45.16"



SITE DESCRIPTION

In this urban place, a scenic viewpoint can be created next to the West edge of the Calarasi's Central Park. This part of the park looks currently as a derelicted area and is rarely visited by the park's visitors. Nevertheless, this spot is offering a unique perspective over the Borcea Channel. The structure envisaged here will allow visitors to establish a new type of relation with the Danube and its surroundings, placing them on a higher vantage point and giving the opportunity to better observe and contemplate the surroundings: the opposite shore of Borcea Channel, the Jirlau Lake and its nearby fishing area and the Calarasi industrial area situated on the South-East.

This location is perfect for implementing a scenic viewpoint as the necessary facilities are already existing (parking area, toilets, shops,

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST AND ACCESSIBILITY

1/ Big Park 2/ Borcea channel 3/ Fishermen area 4/ Dumbrava Park
5/ City center 6/ Big Beach



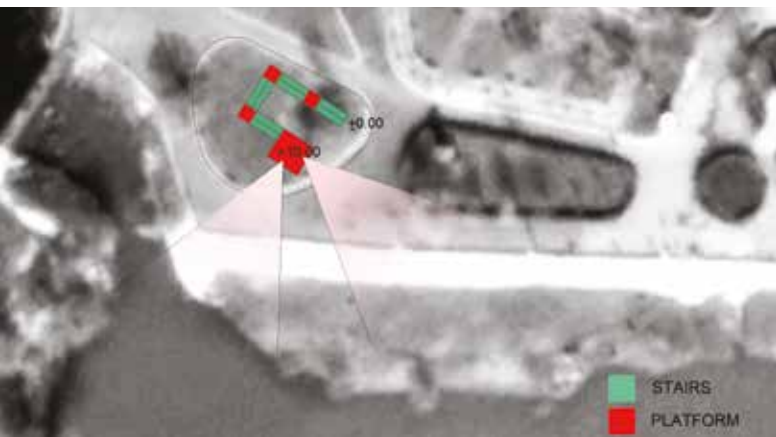
© Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV)

etc.) and need only to be renovated in a innovative and sustainable way. Moreover, this rehabilitation of the park facilities and the building of a watchtower on the Danube banks will enhance the attractiveness of one of the main places of interest of the city.

GENERAL PROPOSALS

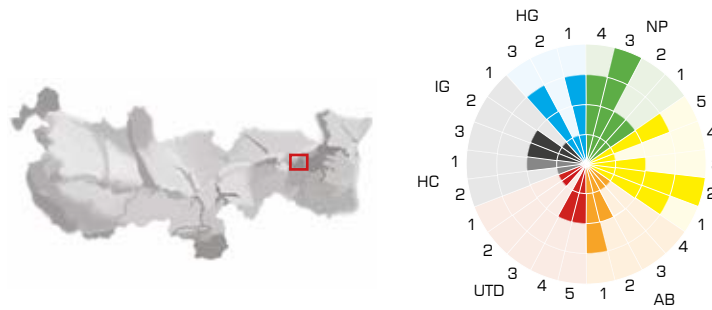


FISHERMEN AREA



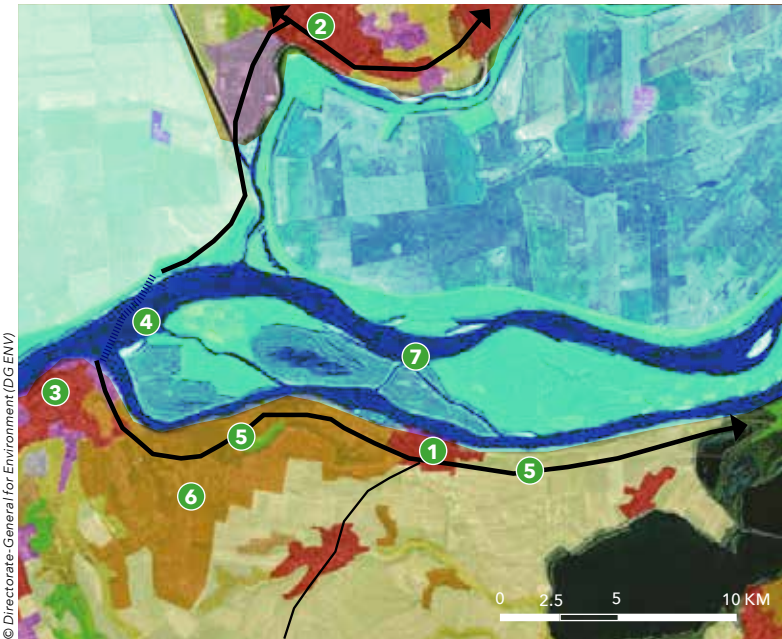
View towards "Plaja mare" Calarasi





POINTS OF INTEREST

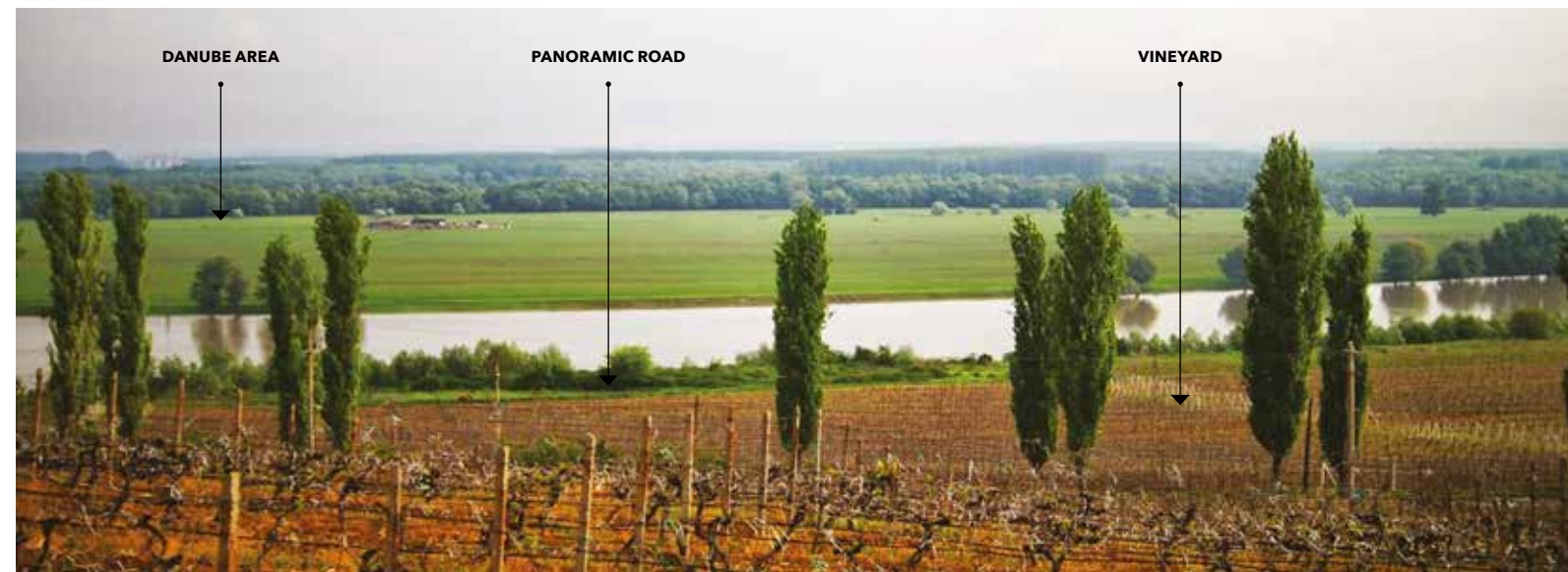
1/ Ostrov village 2/ Calarasi 3/ Silistra 4/ Ferry boat 5/ Panoramic road 6/ Vineyard 7/ Danube valley



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Landscape Unit is situated west of the Oltina Plateau and overlooks the Danube's slow turn to the north. The landscape is spectacular as it offers direct views of the Danube with mild hills covered with vineyards, orchards or isolated trees. The region can be reached from the North, using one of the Calarasi-Silistra ferry services that gives access to one of the only three land border points that connect Romania to Bulgaria, or through the road that goes farther east to Adamclisi and Constanta. The landscape features are composed in its northern part of a flat and low plain that gets a little more steeper in the south with small and deep valleys. In this area, Ponto-Sarmatian and Balkan-Ponti forests and thickets meet the Euro-Siberian steppe

READING THE LANDSCAPE



beside large areas of Ponto-Sarmatian steppe's vegetation and wetland habitats. The main settlement is the Ostrov commune, which is bounded to the north by the Danube's Ostrov branch. The area is part of the Natura 2000 site Canaralele Dunarii, while the commune territory also includes the Bugeac lake and the Esehioi Forest sites.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Although agriculture is the main economic activity, the region is also well known for its vineyards with the Ostrov Domains, its orchards and its fish products. Animal husbandry and shepherding are also common activities in the higher parts of the area. We can notice the plot fragmentation that illustrates the fact that subsistence farming is widespread and that crops are usually used for bartering. Small food processing and milling enterprises, most of them family businesses, have developed during the last years. Ecotourism, wine and nautical tourism are the main potential assets due to the beautiful scenery and the quality and variety of wines.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Ostrov commune has a number of interesting cultural heritage sites, such as the Durostorum archaeological site, the churches in the villages of Bugeac and Ostrov and the ruins of the Byzantine fortress

RECOMMENDATIONS

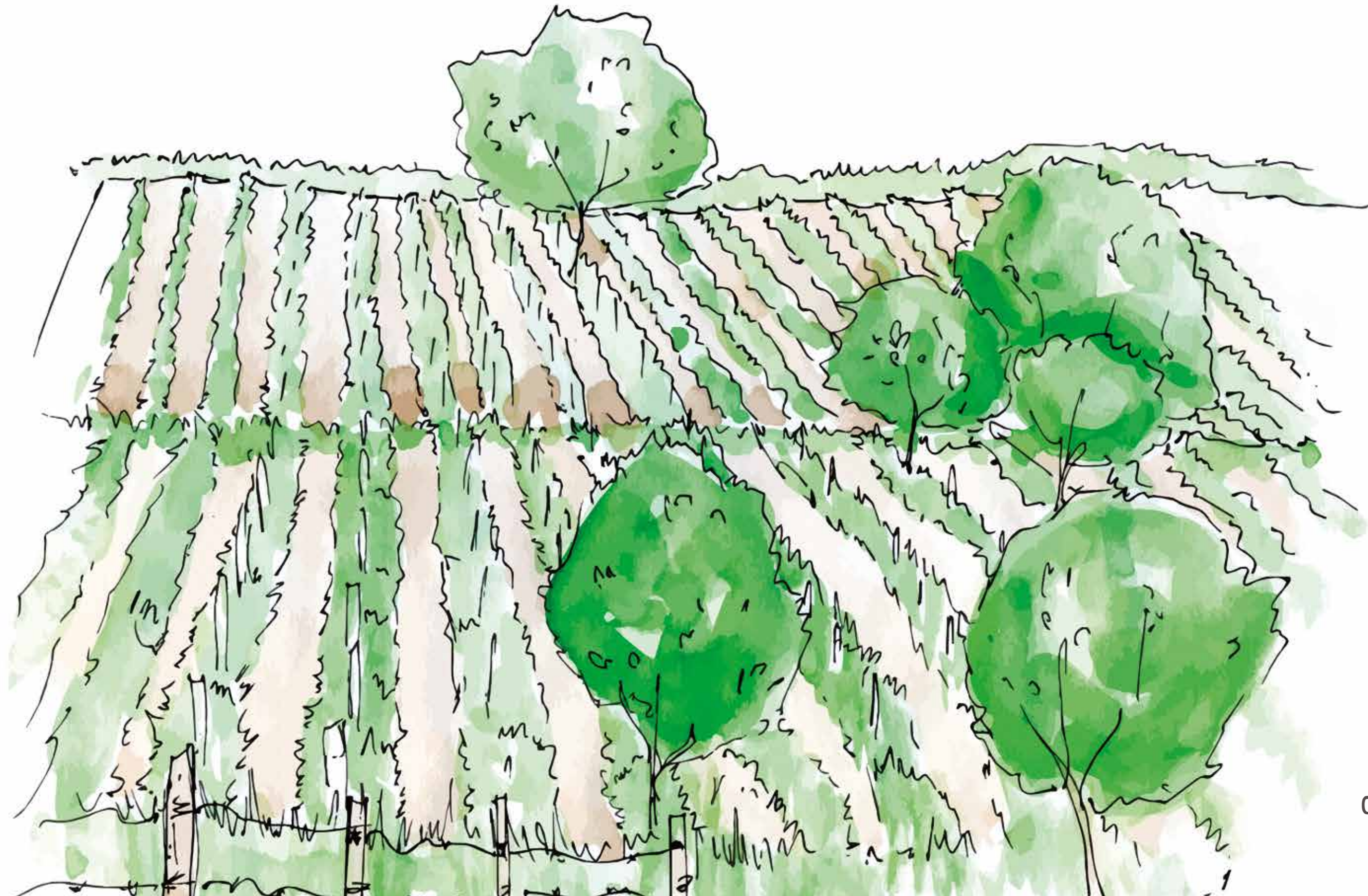
- 1>Raise local product awareness (especially for wine and fruits) and promote the registration of a geographical label
- 2>Develop leisure activities infrastructure (horse riding, cycling)
- 3>Protect, renovate and promote historical heritage sites
- 4>Create common Natura 2000 cross border management plan

of Pacuiul lui Soare. The Canaralele Dunarii site is one of the most important and rich Natura 2000 sites on the Danube, protecting over 30 species, among them the Black Sea herring, the mud loach and the fire-bellied toad. Traditions are well kept in the area with ceremonies such as the «Epiphany courage» when young men throw themselves into freezing cold water to catch a cross casted by a priest. Another custom is the ancient Urlaria of Shrove Tuesday when inhabitants light large fires to purify the villages and burn the evil.

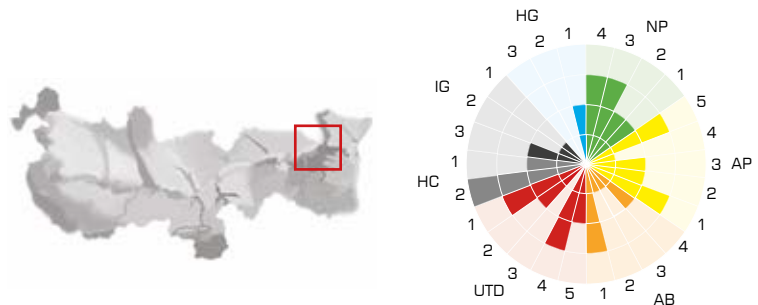
THREATS

Unsustainable farming practices threaten soil fertility and is increasing river pollution. The lack of infrastructure investment hinders the development of tourism facilities, one the main economic alternative for local inhabitants.





Ostrov vineyards / CONSTANTA



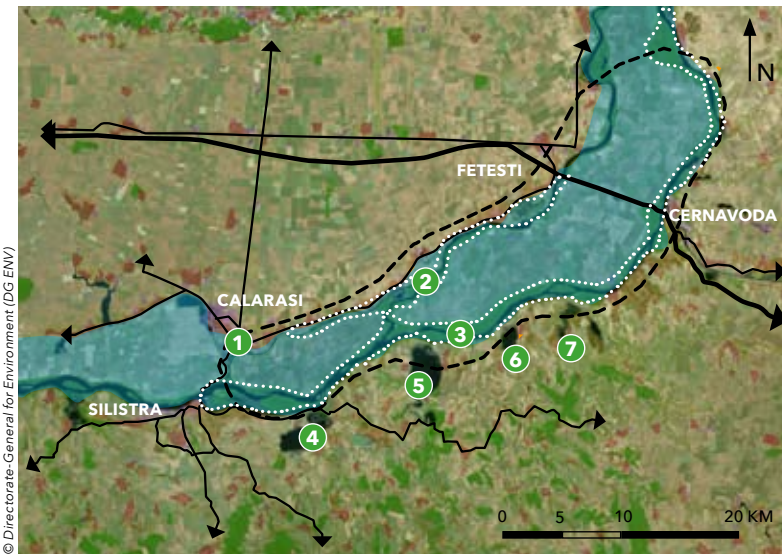
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Borcea area is part of the Moesian Platform Unit and has the shape of an island surrounded by the Danube on all sides along the Borcea channel. The villages and communes also form a belt on both sides of this island, on the lower Baragan plain in the West and on the Dobrudja plateau in the East. Home to more than 5 Natura 2000 sites, the area is positioned on the Eastern route of several migratory birds and offers specific nesting places for rare and very rare protected bird species. The Landscape Unit is composed of broadleaf forests, rivers and lakes, swamps, grasslands, steppe and mainly of arable land. Indeed, the land surface is covered by a fertile chernozem soil that is used to grow cereal crops. The Landscape Unit appears as a former wetland that becomes an agricultural land crossed by irrigation channels. The area is crossed by the highway that links Bucharest to the Black sea port of Constanta and that passes by the Fetesti-Cernavoda Bridge. This bridge, due to its impressive height, offers one of the most impressive panoramic views of the Danube in the cross border region.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Lower Danube Museum 2/ Borcea Branch Natura 2000 Protected Site (SPA) 3/ Canaralele Dunarii Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI) 4/ Bugeac Lake 5/ Oltina Lake 6/ Dunareni Lake 7/ Vederoasa Lake



ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The area has been developed as an intensive farming ground. Beekeeping, livestock farming are especially present in the South-western part of the region. A few local farmers and foreign companies in the agriculture field are taking advantages of the exceptional soil fertility and an important part of the area's production is exported

mainly towards European and Middle-Eastern markets. However, even in this intensive agriculture area, agricultural productivity remains low and is affected by the lack of mechanization and of irrigation networks. Fishing is a popular activity along the Danube and in the neighbouring lakes. Supporting sustainable tourism activities such as bird watching, leisure fishing, river/lake leisure activities or cycling represent one of the main potential of the area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The protection and conservation of the natural heritage sites is a keystone element as they are the main area's assets. Forest management is one of the main issue as illegal logging has an important effect on biodiversity. The main natural sites are situated on the Borcea branch, the Dunare Ostroave, the Fetesti swamp and the Vederoasa lake. Pelicans, red ducks, egrets, cormorants and storks live and cross permanently this charming landscape. However, the difficult access to the area and the lack of accommodations are hindering the tourism development potential. The main cultural heritage landmark is the Anghel Saligny railroad truss bridge, named after its architect, an emblem of the 19th century modernisation period. The construction was completed in 1895 and at that time it was the longest bridge in Europe and the third longest in the world.

THREATS

The destruction of reeds to expand agricultural land or to widen the lakes used by fisheries, the inadequate dredging of lakes, stubble burning, agricultural use of pesticides and fertilizers and hydraulic works affect the ecosystems and the birds' habitats during nesting and migration periods.



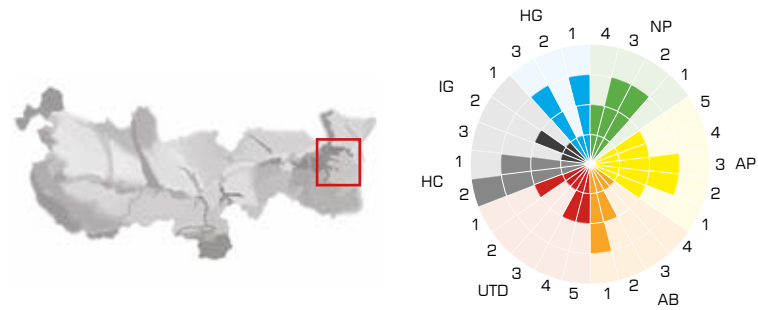
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Support the creation of leisure river activities (canoeing, etc.)
- 2>Support small farming units in producing ecological products
- 3>Reinforce the measures against intensive and illegal logging
- 4>Encourage the development of suitable accommodations facilities for tourist activities
- 5>Create birdwatching infrastructure and green tourism facilities such as viewpoints, footpaths, bicycle trails linked to the Eurovelo route 6.



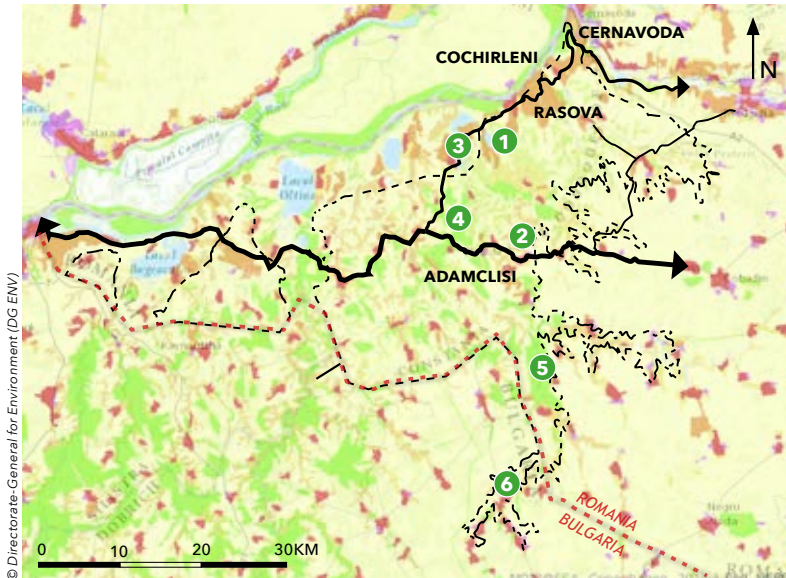
Wetland on the Danube
flood plain / CALARASI





POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Baciú lake 2/ Tropaeum Traiani castrum and monument, Adamclisi 3/ Vederöasa lake 4/ Urluia valley 5/ Dumbraveni forest 6/ Izvorovo - Kraishte Natura 2000 site



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

Situated in the south Dobrudja Plateau, a highly fragmented plateau with large valleys, the Oltinei plateau valleys area includes various forms of relief such as gorges in the Dumbraveni forest, hills, natural and semi-natural grasslands and valleys with permanent water flows, which form a geomorphological landscapes of a charming beauty and adequate habitats for rare plants and animals. The Dumbraveni forest natural reserve preserves between its limestone slopes a submediterranean vegetation, with rare species such as the fluffy oak, the gray oak or the wild jasmine. The two main lakes of the site, the Vederöasa Lake which is included in the 517 hectares Aliman lake

READING THE LANDSCAPE



natural reserve and the Baciú lake, are typical meandering floodplain lakes which are almost covered by reed. The Vederöasa lake is fed by many underground springs and the development of this aquatic ecosystem used to be influenced by Danube overflows during the spring but now the communication between the two ecosystems has ceased.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The most frequent economic activities are agriculture, livestock farming, forestry, viticulture, and fish farming. Large orchards can be found in the north part of the landscape unit. The main activities, agriculture and livestock farming, are usually practised at a subsistence level. Indeed, the local inhabitants used to work in the neighbouring cities of Cernavoda and Medgidia before the fall of communism that was followed by a de-industrialization process that led to rural migration. Murfatlar, one of the most well known and one of the main Romanian wine making company has wide vineyards in the area and we can notice the appearance of small producers along him. Another new element in the area is the development of green energy through the construction of wind farms. The area main settlements, Adamclisi and Rasova, are situated in the vicinity of the Sun Highway, the highway linking Bucharest to Constanta, and can easily develop complementary tourism products to the seaside ones.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The area covers 3 Natura 2000 sites and an exceptional fauna and flora with rare species such as the strictly protected Dobrogean turtle, the Dobrujan dragon (the local name for the longest endemic snake species), otters, gophers and more than 100 bird species. A narrow strip of land continues south and crosses the border with Bulgaria to include the Izvorovo - Kraishte site, home to over 36 protected bird species (including buzzards, mallards and robins). The area's cultural



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Renovate and promote the important Roman and medieval cultural heritage
- 2>Create a scenic route along the waterfront - in order to take advantage of the unspoiled landscape and local heritage
- 3>Create bicycle routes that connect at least Cernavoda to Rasova and to Adamclisi
- 4>Develop a brand for local products - crafts, sheepskin objects, fishery - to promote rural tourism

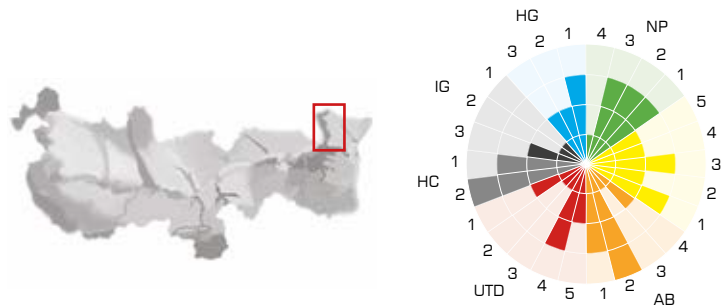
heritage landmarks are the «Monument to Triumph» built in honour of Emperor Trajan in 106-109 years in order to celebrate his victory on the Dacian in 102. Simultaneously, the Romans built the castrum of Tropaeum Traiani, considered as the largest civil settlement in Dobrudja. Another place to visit is the Cave Monastery of St. Andrew who has brought the Christian religion in Romania according to the tradition. Local sheep farming products and crafts are well-known for their quality and creativity as for example pastoral music instruments such as the local bagpipe or the reed pipe.

THREATS

Overgrazing, poaching, the introduction of invasive species in the flora, the development of fish farms and of wind farms are the main elements that endanger the rich local ecosystems and habitats.

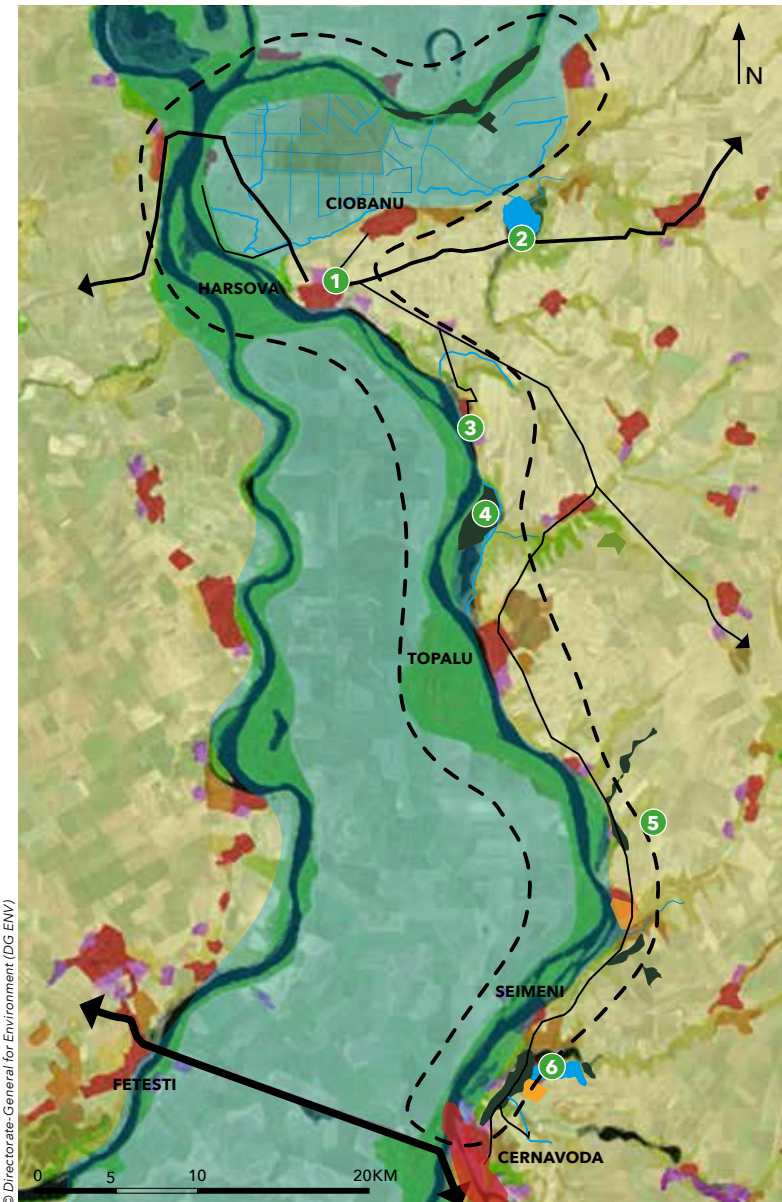






POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Carsium Fortress - archeological site 2/ Hazarlac Lake fishing area 3/ Capidava Fortress - archeological site 4/ Canarele Dunarii Nature 2000 Site 5/ Allah Bair - Capidava Natura 2000 Site 6/ Lacul Domneasca-Seimeni fishing area



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Harsova waterfront is a narrow strip of land that stretches north to the point where the Borcea branch joins the Danube. Located between the Danube and the Dobrudja Plateau, this flat land is scattered by intensive agricultural fields. The rare settlements are situated along the national road that goes along the Danube and that is part of the Euroveloroute 6. The area's complex ecosystems are the result of erosion and of the alluvium dropped off by the Danube during centuries. The aquatic ecosystems are home of a rich fish fauna with several fish species protected at European level. We can notice also a wide variety of grassland habitats and forests. The area is crossed by the main migration route of plant species that starts in the Balkan Peninsula and ends in the Danube Delta. The Canarele Dunarii Natura 2000 sites offer a scenic landscape due to its impressive geomorphological features with sharp cliff rocks that appear to be limestones dating from the Jurassic period and that contain fossils of sponges and corals.



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activities are intensive agriculture, livestock farming and wine making. The industrial sector that existed in Harsova has gradually disappeared after the fall of communism. Port activities are weak, especially in Harsova due to the general river traffic decrease after the closing of the industries that were situated along the Danube banks. The Harsova does not even possess suitable docking facilities. Cernavoda has not suffered the same fate and its port is still busy, as well as the industry - some of it directly linked to its nuclear power plant. Danube river cruises even stop in the city in order to propose excursions in the natural parks, in the Roman castrum and in the Murfatlar wine cellar. Nevertheless, tourism is not enough developed in the area and especially in its northern part which is the most suitable for leisure activities such as fishing, trekking, bird watching and cycling for example. The area lacks of leisure facilities and of quality accommodations in its rural part.

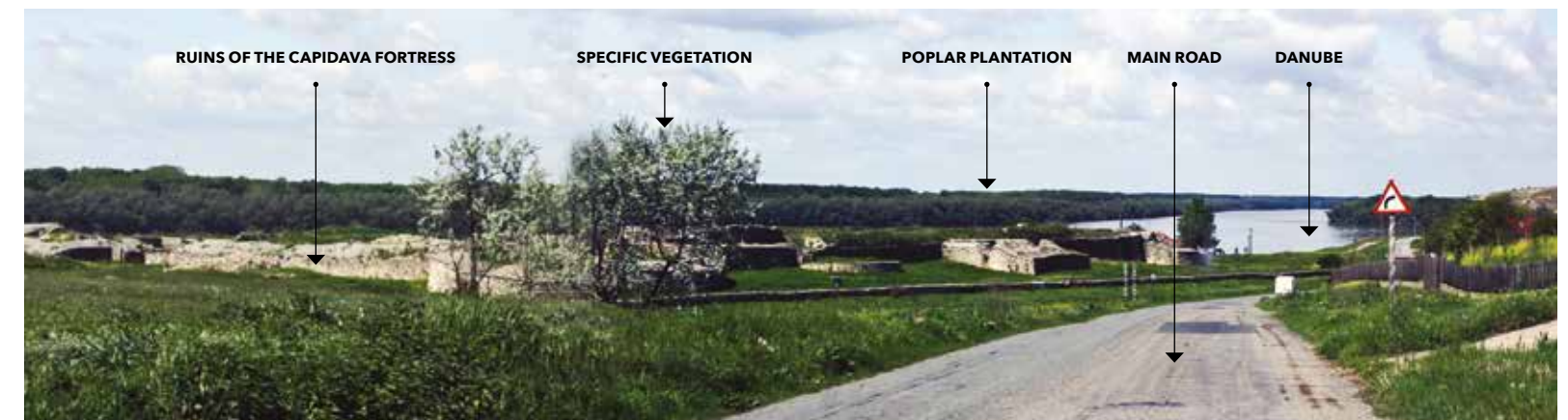
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The landscape unit is well known for its antiquity period cultural heritage with sites such as Carsium and Capidava that underscore the early Greek and Roman presence in the region. The Capidava fortress, with its ruins overlooking the river, is one of the most impressive Castrum in the Danube area. The southern part of the area is well known for its neolithic findings from the Hamangia culture that have become regional symbol in the case of the "Hamangia thinker" sculpture. The region multicultural and ethnic diversity can be seen in the Cernavoda mosque that was originally built in 1756 and the unique wooden church made from wattle and daub and with wooden pillars of the Izvoarele village.

THREATS

Water and soil pollution due to intensive agricultural practices and illegal logging represent a permanent threat in the area. Another risk is linked to navigability works and to the plantation of poplars that change the area's traditional ecosystem.

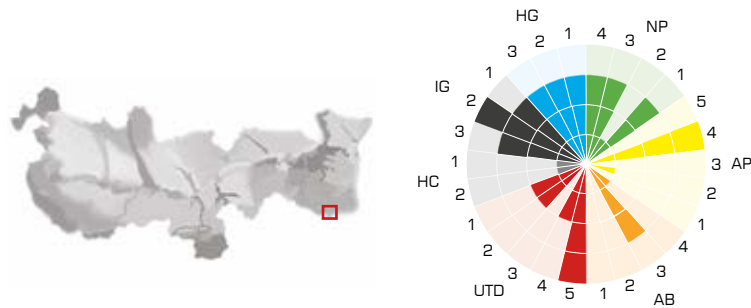
READING THE LANDSCAPE



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Renovate and promote the cultural heritage and create a Roman castrum thematic trail
- 2>Support the development of rural accommodations and leisure facilities along the Euroveloroute 6
- 3>Establish bird watching facilities (observation points, tracks) while strengthening site protection regulations
- 4>Develop cultural events in the area, which is easily reachable from the seaside and from Bucharest.





POINTS OF INTEREST

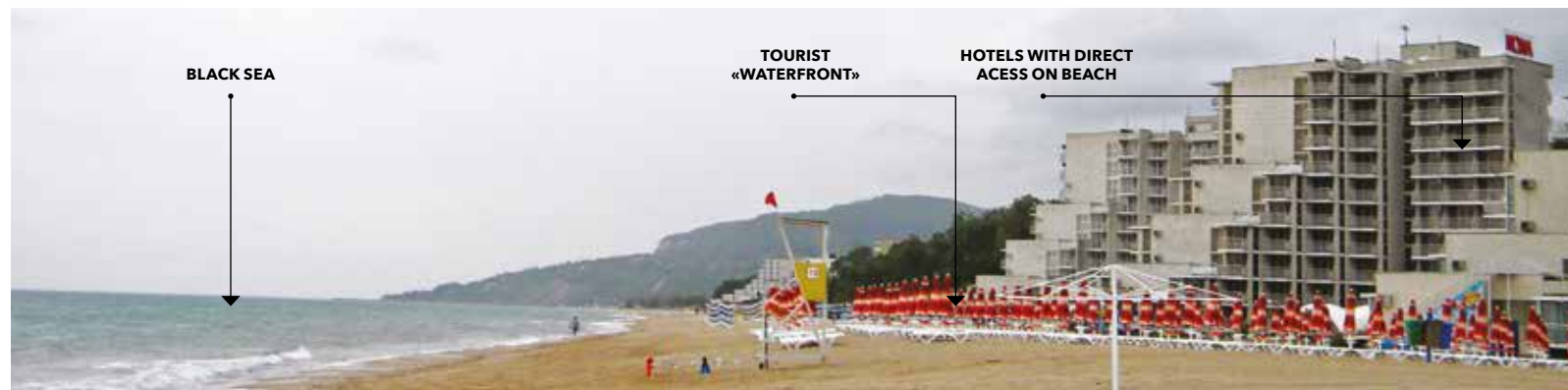
1/ Natural reserve of Baltata 2/ Beautiful road along the sea between Balchik and Albena (Dalbata) 3/ Albena 4/ Kranevo 5/ Balchik 6/ Balchik Natura 2000 Protected Site (SPA) 7/ Dolinata na reka Batova Natura 2000 Protected Site (SCI) 8/ Batova Natura 2000 Protected Site (SPA)



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Albena resort opened its gates the 24th August 1969 and is situated in the area of the Obrochiste village, 8 km from Balchik, 30 km from the cities of Dobrich and Varna with its international airport. The beautiful scenery and the mild climate have attracted people here since 200 AD when was established a fortified settlement named Geraneya. The area was chosen for the building of a resort during the communist period because of its unique flat beach with fine yellow sand and surrounding lush vegetation. Indeed, visitors can enjoy here a 5 km long beach line wide up to 500m. The southern part of the resort is more secluded with few hotels along the Batova valley. Here the dense forests of Baltata spread on a hilly area surrounding the river's mouth. This small flooded forest is one of the most impressive features of the resort and is composed of a 200 ha strictly protected zone and a 160 ha buffer zone. A road to the north has cut off the natural flooding regime and is changing, for years now, the forest composition.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Albena has been built especially as a tourism resort and during the last years about 90% of the tourists were foreign citizens. To avoid the pitfall of seasonality, the sea and sun offer is completed by the presence of spas, some of them open all year-long and valuing the local mineral water that has a temperature of 30 degrees and is slightly mineral with calcium and magnesium. Treatments with highly mineralized medicinal mud, containing hydrogen sulphide, are also available in the resort. Furthermore, Albena is becoming a well-known destination for MICE (Meetings, Incentive, Congress and Events) tourism, especially at a cross border level, but cannot offer until now a large and modern exhibition space. Albena proposes attractive seasonal jobs for the population of the neighbouring villages and of cities such as Balchik but more must be done to retain these qualified employees and offer them alternative jobs in the area during the closure season.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

It would be difficult to find any cultural heritage in a resort built 45 years ago but tourism stakeholders can propose interesting day trip in the surrounding areas for urban tourism in Balchik and Varna or for rural/ nature tourism. Moreover, it should be noted that Albena has a specific positioning in regard of other Bulgarian resorts. Albena is not a large resort in comparison with Sunny Beach or Golden Sands for instance. It is known as a family place where mass tourism and its excesses has not completely altered the seaside. The natural heritage tends to be preserved and valued with the Baltata forest for example. The resort must develop a new and clear positioning such as becoming the first green tourism resort on the Black Sea coast.



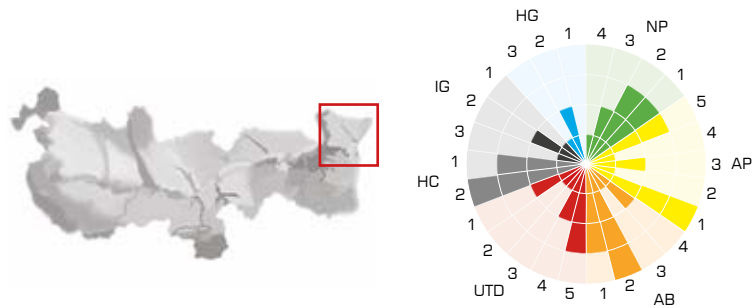
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Restrain hotel constructions and promote a sustainable urban planning and the development of leisure facilities
- 2>Preserve the natural elements as the Baltata area
- 3>Renovation of old hotels with an emphasis on their environmental sustainability and the introduction of new equipments such as spa facilities to fight against the seasonality
- 4>A new promotion of the Albena brand that focus on its singularity among Black Sea resort and the higher value it gives to tourists.

THREATS

The resort is vulnerable to external shocks such as an economic crisis and to climate change effects such as the June 2014 powerful storm that damaged and flooded hotels. Moreover, landslides and erosion and abrasion process represent also challenges that must be tackled in order to preserve the resort's tourism offer.





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Casimcea Plateau, a flat terrain at around 200 meters above sea level, is the oldest form of landscape in Romania. It is bounded by water at its west (the Harsova waterfront) and east (the salted lakes on the Black Sea coast) and by the Danube - Black Sea Channel to the south. It is a large area of steppe and forest steppe soil on a soil composed of composite substrate of green shales overlapped by limestone karst. The landscape relief includes canyons, various karst forms such as towers, masts and valleys that are bordered by cylindrical cliffs. All these elements form a unique landscape for Romania. Crop fields dominate the landscape and recently wind power generation facilities have become one of the landmarks of this landscape unit. Hilly areas, covered by orchards or plantations, stand out on the valleys' borders. The area includes two natura 2000 sites, Allah Bair hill and Dobrogea Gorge that host a wide variety of flora and fauna. We can notice here the spectacular geomorphology of the small site of Allah Bair (The «Allah hills»), with deep loess ravines of a unique landscape value and a remarkable flora richness with over 270 species of plants.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Dobrogea Gorge Natura 2000 Site 2/ Allah Bair Hill Natura 2000 Site 3/ Ulmetum Roman Castrum 4/ Tasaul-Corbu lakes Natura 2000 Protected Site (SPA) 5/ Saraiu-Horea Steppe Natura 2000 Protected Site (Spa) 6/ Danube delta and Razim-Sinoie complex Natura 2000 Protected Site (SPA)



Many of them are endemic or endangered protected species and are protected at national level.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Agriculture and livestock farming are the main economic activities in the Landscape Unit area but a part of the population is still working in the industrial plants situated in the Navodari port city on the Black Sea. A few construction material factories and some food processing units (meat, milk) are also present in the area. The wind farms development creates few direct and indirect employment opportunities. We can also notice that livestock farming and pastoralism is decreasing continuously. The tourism sector remains underdeveloped even if it appears as one of the main opportunity to slow down the migration process from this depopulating area. Indeed the area is well linked to the transport infrastructure (highway, European road, airport, train) and there is a strong potential to develop cultural and active tourism activities (cycling, trekking, horse riding, etc.)

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The area is well known for its multicultural richness due to its ethnic diversity. Tatars, Turks, Lipoveni (Russians and Ukrainians old rite orthodox), Aroman, Orthodox, Catholics, Muslims, Orthodox and Muslim Roms, etc. are living together for centuries on this land inhabited since thousand years as the recent discovery of the palaeolithic site of "La Adam" proved it. Small tools and weapons alongside fossil remnants from quaternary mammals have been found in this cave. Nearby, in the Targusor village a monastery has been recently built to host the Saint Casian cave - chapel, an old praying space. The Mihail Kogalniceanu municipality, that hosts the Constanta international airport, is home to the late 19th century built Gothic catholic cathedral, an inter-war orthodox church and a Muslim cemetery.

THREATS

The activities with negative impacts are mainly the development of large monoculture and the excessive use of fertilizers, the abandon of grazing and mowing activities, the drainage of wetlands and the development of wind farms whether located inside or near Natura 2000 site that endanger the birds during the migration period.

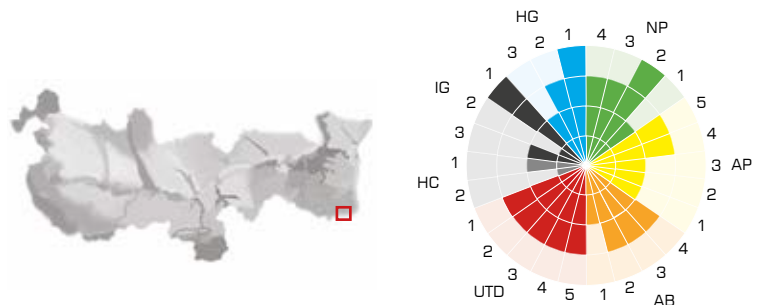
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Support the development of small farming units (family farming), livestock farming and pastoralism based on ecological production practices
- 2>Develop leisure facilities and rural accommodations near the cultural and natural heritage landmarks
- 5>Preserve and promote the multicultural heritage of the area.





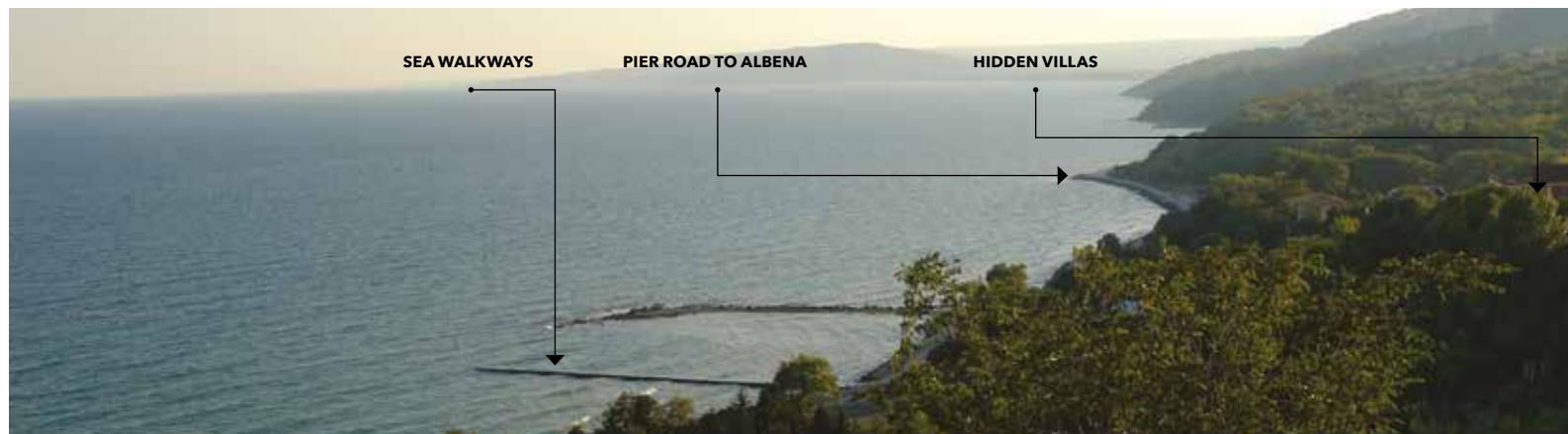
Casimcea agricultural lands / CONSTANȚA



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

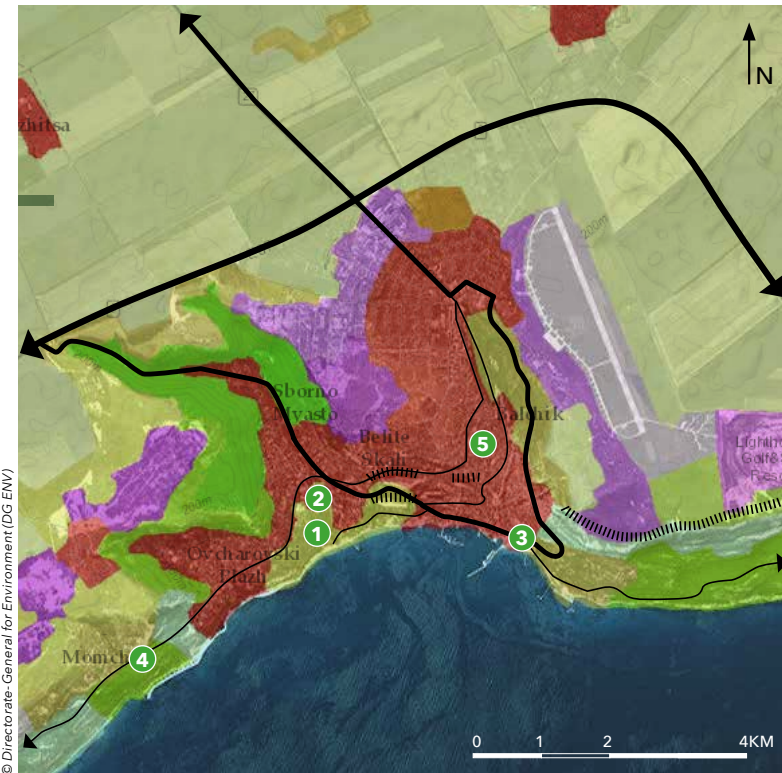
Balchik is a small city on the North Bulgarian Seaside, situated in the north-eastern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea shore, 40 km from Varna and 20 km from Kavarna. Balchik has a moderate continental climate and is a well-know resort for more than one century. The landscape is mainly characterised by white limestone steep banks slanting towards rocky seashores without natural sandy beaches. A shore lane starts at the yacht tourist port and finishes near the Albena resort where sandy beaches reappear. The city is divided between the old/historical district in the lower part and more recent buildings on the above plateau. The landscape perspective is powerful while visiting the old town and gliding through the steep streets that bring you down to the seashore. Balchik has managed to preserve its authenticity developed under the influence of many cultures through its rich history. Founded by the Thracian, it was successively ruled by the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Ottomans and the Romanians. The Greeks established 26 centuries ago a trading post named Krunes that developed itself and changed its name to Dionisiopolis. In the 4th century BC, Dionisiopolis was an important economical centre that was minting its own coins.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Balchik Palace 2/ Botanical Garden 3/ Small beach 4/ Road to Albena (Dalbata) 5/ Historical Museum



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activities are linked with the seasonal seaside tourism and the port activities. The city's port is a multi-purpose one, handling also dry and liquid bulk. The principal activity of the port is based on handling bulk cargo, mainly grain coming from the Dobrudja region, the largest grain producing and exporting regions in Bulgaria. Commercial fishing and trade are also present but are lacking modern infrastructures. The population is stable and is composed of a Bulgarians and of a strong Turkish minority. It must be noticed that it is one of the rare cities in the cross border area, which is not confronted to a strong demographic decrease. Moreover, statistic data show an increase of the population access to higher education which is a sign of a sustainable local development. Indeed, Balchik tourism is less seasonal than the neighbouring resorts due to its rich cultural heritage and is targeting the Romanian clientele, who has a very easy access to the city by the Romanian seaside road network.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Balchik is a genuine «cross-border» place with strong Bulgarian, Romanian and Turkish influences and is therefore considered as one of the Black Sea cultural landmark by Romanian and Bulgarian tourists. The city's main cultural heritage site is the Palace, the former summer residence of the Romanian Queen Maria, and its nearby botanical garden. Other notable sites are the old town and the ethnographic and historical museums.

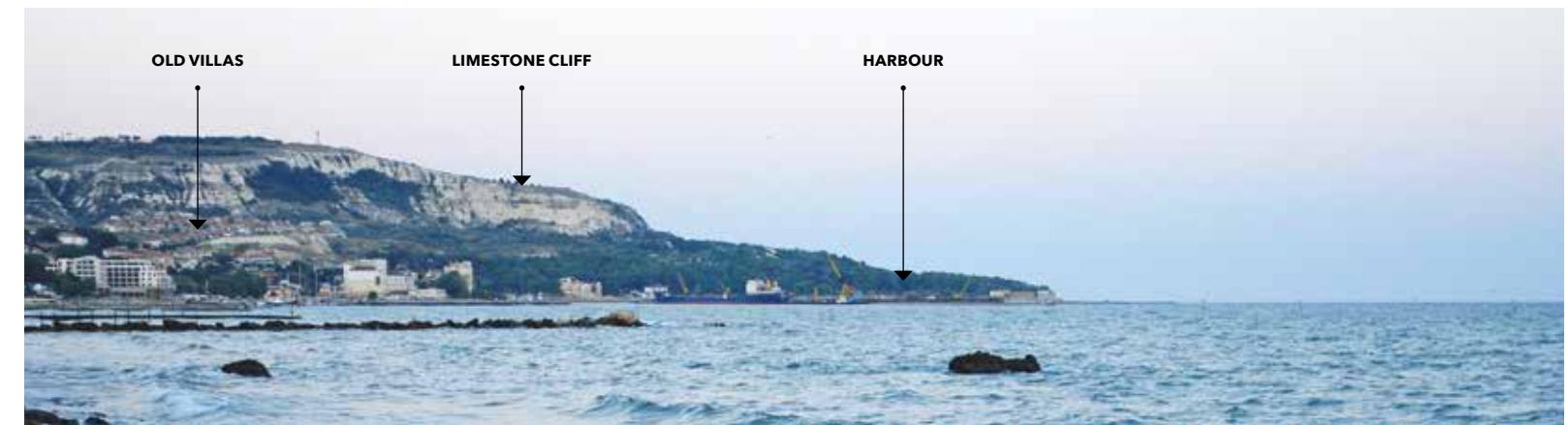
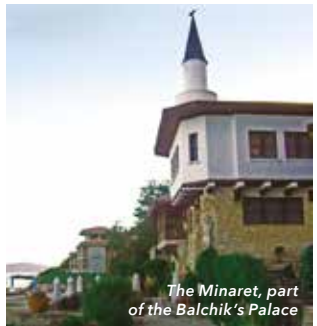


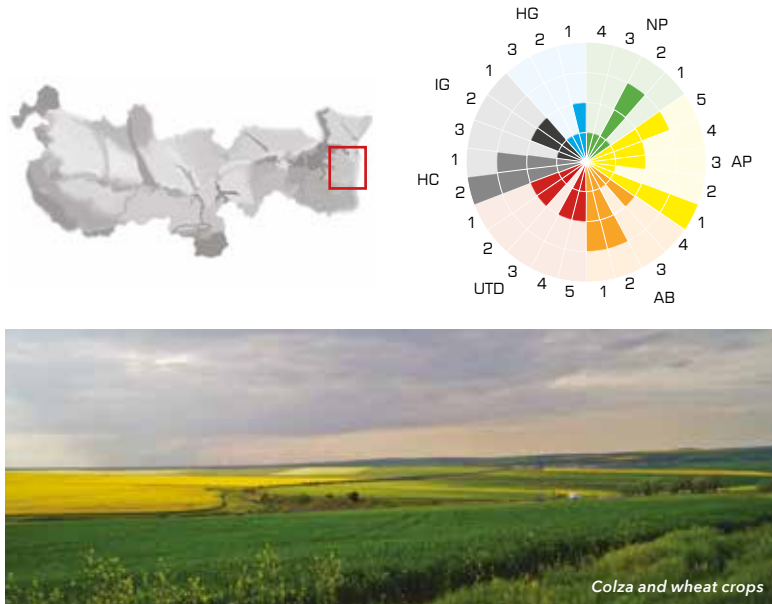
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Better design and implementation of urbanism regulations would enable the city to be more coherent architecturally and to have a more elegant and refined image in order to attract high income tourists.
- 2>The cliffs could be used as potential belvedere places
- 3>Development of less-seasonal tourism products such as ecotourism, wellness or cultural events tourism

THREATS

The most important threats for Balchik and its surroundings are landslides. They go along with the pressure of uncontrolled building constructions that may result into a chaotic aesthetic ensemble.





LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

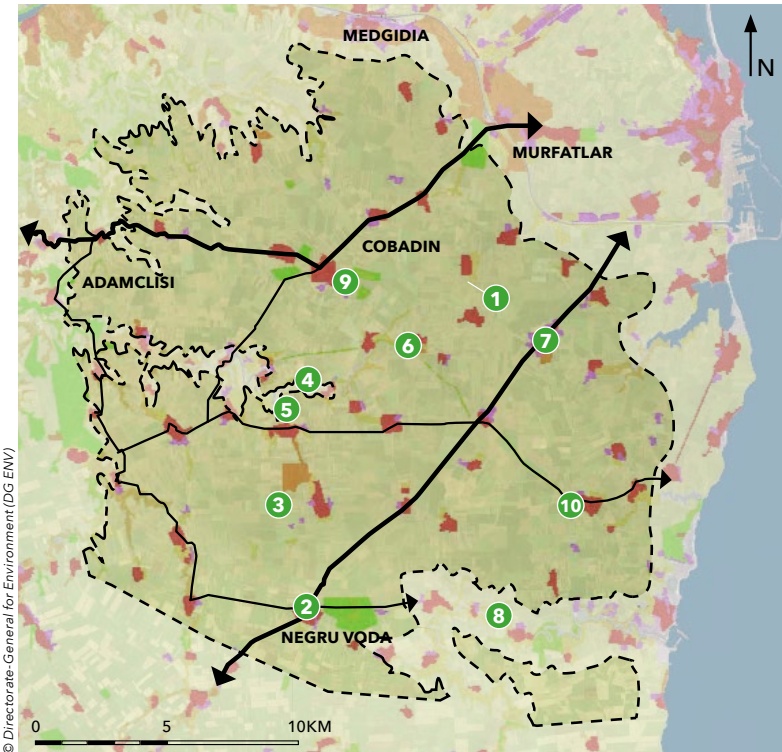
The Cobadin Plateau covers up most of the Central and Eastern part of the Dobrudja Plateau and is positioned between the Oltinei Plateau to its West, the Black Sea coast to its East and the Danube Black Sea channel to its North. The landscape features include depressions, gullies, hills and canyons and Sarmatian limestone with rocky cliffs, which form very diverse biotopes that host a rich fauna and flora. The area has a high plain relief formed mostly of steppe, forest-steppe and

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Ottoman cemetery 2/ Negru Voda archaeological site 3/ Wind park 4/ Wetland 5/ Credinta Fossil - Palaeontological site 6/ Osmancea - picturesque Turkish village 7/ Topraisar - archaeological site 8/ Albesti valley 9/ Ciocarlia mounds 10/ Pecineaga mounds



© Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV)

oak forests with valuable species such as the downy oak, the gray oak and the balkanic oak, the tartar maple or the acacia. It is an area with long droughts that sweeten grapes and wine and with heavy rainfalls that favour crop cultures. The most important settlement is Negru Voda, a border city founded during the Ottoman Empire rule.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

Agriculture is the main activity in the area with vegetables and crop growing. Non food crops are also very present. Silos and storing houses are part of the economic landscape. The local residents usually live of subsistence agriculture or work in the seaside industrial cities of Constanta or Mangalia. Livestock farming, mainly sheep and goats, and beekeeping are also widespread economic activities. Local small industry is mainly composed of food and beverage processing plants and furniture factories. Several wind-farms have been built in the area during the last five years. These major investments have created almost no direct and indirect incomes to the population as they hired few people. While the area is situated close to the first Romanian tourism destination, its seaside, the area is not visited by the seaside tourists not even for a single day visit. The development of natural and cultural heritage is a key issue for the area and for the seaside one that has to develop a more complete offer in order to tackle the seasonality challenge.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Cultural heritage sites are the most well known area's tourism attractions while the natural heritage sites, such as Pestera - Deleni, Fantanita Murfatlar or the Hagieni forest, are less known and still not



Agricultural landscapes



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Register, preserve and promote immaterial cultural heritage through the organisation of festivals and the creation of a network of cultural and craft centres.
- 2>Develop tourism facilities and accommodations and create common packages with seaside tourism providers
- 3>Link nearby natural attractions to the seaside resorts by creating cycling and trekking routes

promoted. The Pecineaga and Comana villages, situated near the South-Eastern coast, host Greek and Roman period remains. In the Limanu cave, "rooms" with cave paintings and Dacian, Greek and Roman ceramics were found. Most of the area's villages have been renamed, several times for some of them, since the end of 19th century when Dobrudja passed from the Ottoman rule to the Romanian one. The Mereni municipality is one of the few settlements that have kept this multicultural trait until now, one of its villages, Osmancea, is a still living example of a late 19th century Turkish settlements. Another worth visiting Ottoman heritage site is the Negru Voda 19th century mosque. Unfortunately, the region's immaterial heritage is disappearing due to the current depopulation process.

THREATS

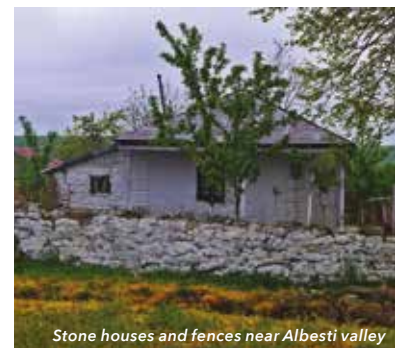
The main threats for the local fauna and flora are logging, intensive agriculture and overgrazing. Another threat is the gradual loss of cultural immaterial heritage due to the continuous migration of local minorities to the neighbouring cities and to foreign countries.



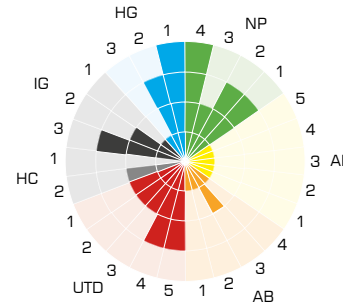
Decaying buildings



Shepherd near Biruinta village



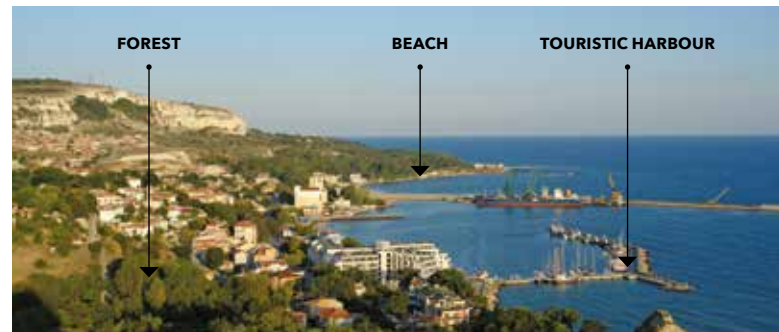
Stone houses and fences near Albesti valley



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

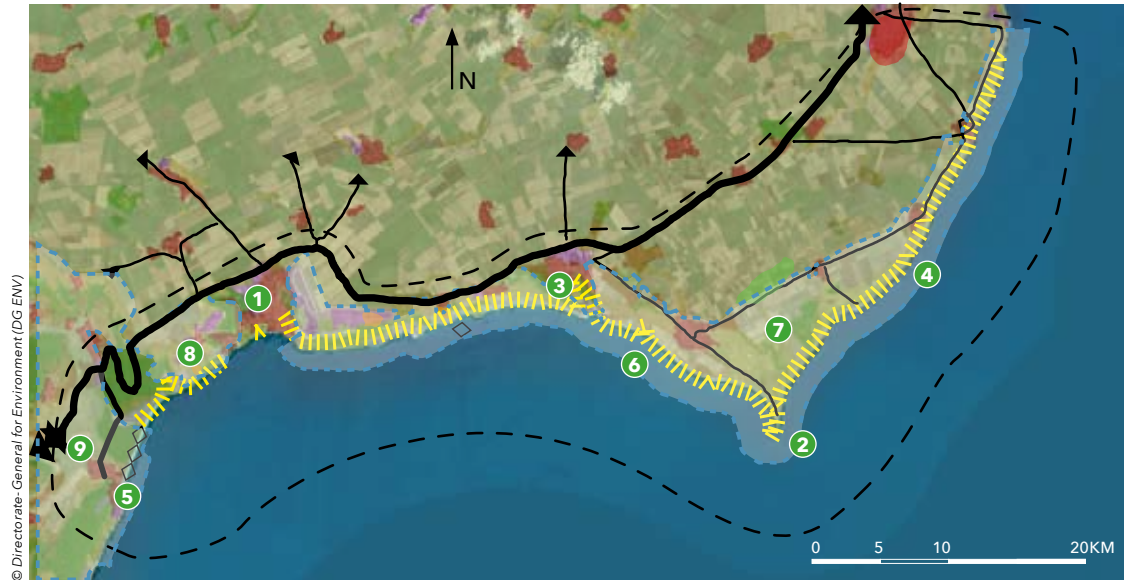
The Landscape Unit goes along the Black Sea coast from Cape Shabla to Balchik. In the south of Cape Shabla lighthouse, limestone cliffs, one of the area's main landscape features, start to appear gradually from beneath the loose fertile land and soon form a long vertical rocky wall facing the Black Sea. Near Kamen Bryag, they have a height of 40 meters and then reach 60 meters at the Cape Kaliakra where we can find the ruins of an old fortress. After Kaliakra, the Black Sea coast goes west and continues to raise until it reaches 100 meters in Kavarna where it loses its rocky nature and is more and more covered with loess. From Kavarna, the coast goes steeply down in a deep and rich valley scattered with springs. This

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1/ Balchik 2/ Cape Kaliakra and its citadel 3/ Kavarna 4/ Yailata Natural and archeological reserve
- 5/ Albena 6/ Dalboka Mussels farm 7/ Kaliakra Natura 2000 Site 8/ Balchik Natura 2000 Site
- 9/ Batova Natura 2000 Site



topology is marked by large creeks between the cliffs that give access to the sea like in Dalboka, Balchik, Albena. From Albena, the seaside is characterized by the reappearance of sand beaches with wider openings in the relief.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activities in the area are agriculture, forestry and tourism. Light industry facilities, such as furniture plants, also exist in Kavarna, the main city of the Landscape Unit. We can notice the development of wind-farms on the Northern open plateau areas that has changed the landscapes and the development of golf courses that went along with the building of new resorts. But on one hand, the economic crisis has slowed down or even stopped the planned real estate investments and on the other hand the changes in the green certificate laws has blocked new green energy investments. Therefore, the area must focus now its development policy on ecologic agriculture, ecotourism and cultural tourism, which seems more sustainable than the last years attempts and who will attract neighbouring tourists such as the Romanians, the Moldavian or the Ukrainians which already represent a main part of the tourists visiting the area.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The most well-known natural heritage site along the coast is Cape Kaliakra. The most easterly point of Bulgaria is positioned on high cliffs and overlooks the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The Natura 2000 site is one of the best preserved remaining of the Eastern Dobrudja Steppe and hosts important bat colonies and more than 300 species of birds, many of them internationally protected. Cape Kaliakra offers to its visitors a rich cultural heritage with the Yailata Archaeological Reserve or the famous medieval fortress. Several ethnic groups are living together here as in the entire Dobrudja but we can notice the important presence of Gagauz, an Orthodox Christian Turkish speaking group.

THREATS

The main threat for the fauna is represented by the development of large wind farms. Moreover, a large part of the coastal area is endangered by landslides and we can notice the recent increase of periodic powerful storms that favour landslides and abrasion mechanisms. Almost the entire coastline is also exposed to an intense erosion process.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Support the development of cultural festivals and active/ extreme sports in areas near/on the rocky seaside
- 2>Strictly control the development of wind-farms in order to protect the birds and to preserve their migration corridors
- 3>Creation of a continuous bicycle road along the cliffs with stop areas that give access to natural sights.
- 4>Implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions against erosion and landslides.



SCENIC DRIVE
BALCHIK > SHABLA, DOBRICH



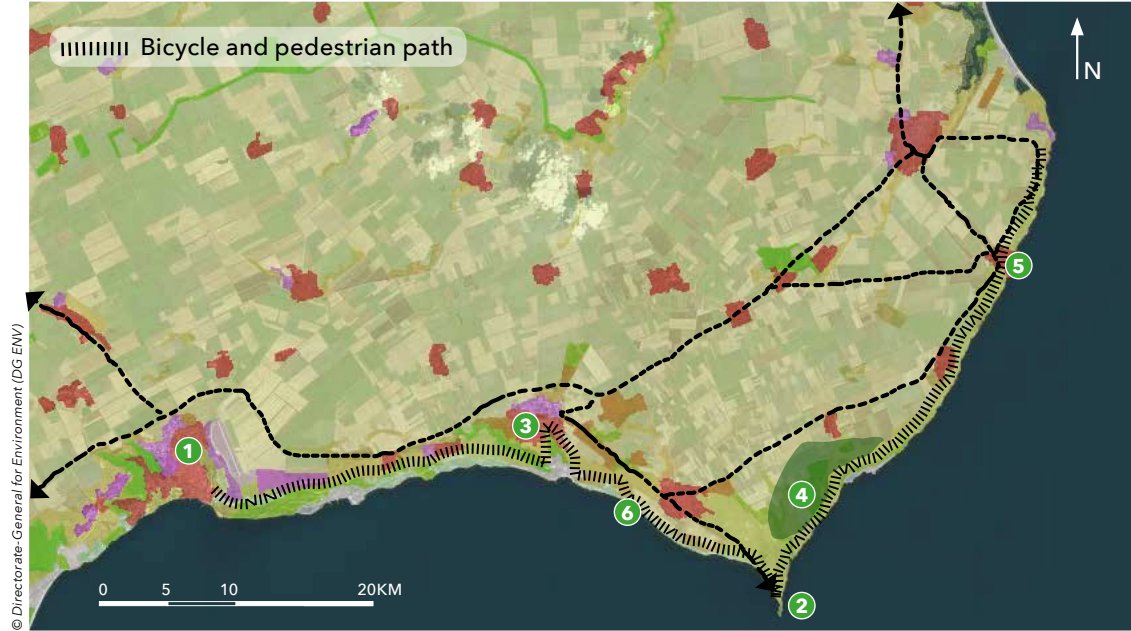
GPS > SHABLA LIGHTHOUSE (43°32'24.67"N ; 28°36'25.08"E)
BALCHIK (43°24'14.05"N ; 28°10'17.69"E)
VIA KALIAKRA CAPE (43°21'41.63"N ; 28°27'54.88"E)

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1/ Balchik 2/ Cape Kaliakra and its citadel
3/ Kavarna 4/ Yaylata Natural and Archeological reserve
5/ Isolated chalk rocks 6/ Dalboka Mussel farm

SITE DESCRIPTION

Although the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is famous for its beautiful and long sandy beaches, the Shabla-Balchik portion of the coast offers a very different typology with its chalk cliffs that can grow up to 100 meters above the sea level. The distance from the road to the edge of the chalk cliffs and the roads' bad conditions hinder an easy access to very impressive Black Sea sceneries. The villages, situated along the coast, are small and offer few facilities and accommodations for the tourists, an issue that represents both an advantage and a risk for the future development of the area and its landscape. The local public and private stakeholders must be supported to develop a sustainable tourism offer that will include the wildlife reserve situated in the vicinity of Cape Kaliakra.



Shabla beach

READING THE LANDSCAPE

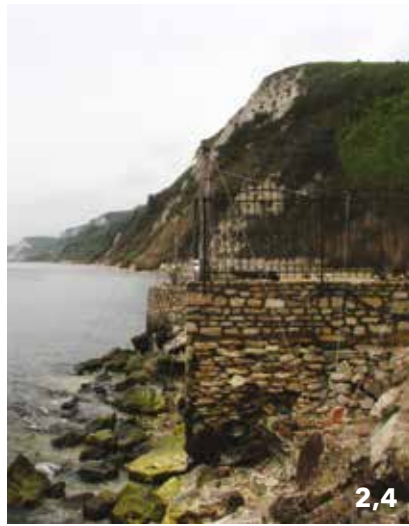


GENERAL PROPOSALS

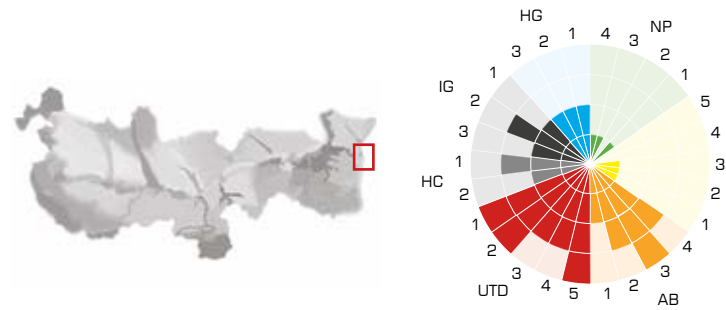
The best way to enjoy a beautiful scenery is to go slowly. We propose the creation a bicycle and pedestrian path that would connect Shabla to Balchik following the cliff's border. The idea of this circuit is to create different stopovers on the way and to offer to the traveller the opportunity to enjoy the view in a different manner each time.

Different kind of interventions can be envisaged:

1. Creation of a bicycle path bordered by a pedestrian path along the cliffs.
2. Benches strategically placed on the margin of the cliff where you can sit and watch the sea below and the cliffs extending themselves on both sides.
3. Using the natural rocks and cliffs pattern to create a safe access to the sea (picnic, swimming, bird watching, fishing...)
4. The creation of a thematic trail with a signage system to raise awareness and discover the wildlife and the historical sights of the area.
5. Creation of a local urban planning set of rules for the further development of touristic infrastructure in order to insure a better integration in the landscape and to position the area as a sustainable tourism destination.







LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

Constanta is a city on the coast Black Sea coast in the south-east of Romania. With a population of over 300,000 inhabitants, Constanta is the second city in the country after Bucharest and its largest port. The city spreads over a surface of approximately 13 000 hectares at an altitude between 0.5 meters and almost 60 meters. Constanta is one of the oldest city in Romania. A Greek colony named Tomis and situated in the current Constanta peninsula is mentioned in a document dating from 657 BC. The town was conquered by the Romans in 71 BC and renamed a few centuries later Constantiana in tribute to the sister of Constantine the Great. Constanta declined during the Ottoman rule, becoming a simple village inhabited by Greeks fishermen and Tatar shepherds. The city gained in importance after its annexation to Romania at the end of the Russian-Turkish war in 1878. Its economic development was linked to the development of the port activities and the building of the railway line Bucharest-Constanta and its famous Anghel Saligny bridge on the Danube. The end of the 19th Century is marked by expansion

READING THE LANDSCAPE



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Casino 2/ Old city centre 3/ Harbour 4/ Entrance in Mamaia resort
5/ Archaeological site with Roman mosaics 6/ Old Genoese Lighthouse
7/ Ovidiu Square



of the city and the construction of new neighbourhoods in the French architectural style along the traditional neighbourhood of oriental style one storey house. The expansion continued during the communist period with the construction of worker's social housing and huge port and industrial facilities and still goes on.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The Constanta port and its shipyard are the city's main economic assets. Its activities are strongly linked to the current Romanian economic situation and therefore relies on the import of processed goods and the export of raw materials or non processed agricultural products. Energy trade is important as the city is closed to the main Romanian refinery of Petromidia. Other industrial activities are also linked to the port economic activities. The construction of a liquefied gas terminal is planned in order to transform Constanta in a Central Asia-Europe energetic hub. The enhancement of Danube navigability and the link to the Rhine river can create economic opportunities for a city that encounter problems to modernise its economic sector that still relies on communism legacy. Mamaia, the Constanta sea resort, remains until now the most popular seaside destination in Romania and has positioned itself as a «party» destination.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The long history of the city can be seen through its rich cultural heritage. The Archaeology museum narrates Dobrudja's past through its collection of almost 430,000 artefacts. Most of the heritage has been discovered during construction works and are often surrounded by residential areas. It is the case of the Roman mosaic found in 1959 in Ovid square, of Tomis archaeological park, of the Roman Therm (public baths) or of the inner wall of the later Byzantine period settlement. The sea front is dominated by the city Casino, the symbol of the city, dating from 1903 and surrounded by water on three sides. Another worth visiting area is the city peninsula one of the few neighbourhood that kept and old vintage oriental flavour. We can find there most of the city's important architectural monuments such as the Grand Mosque of Constanta and the Ovid square.

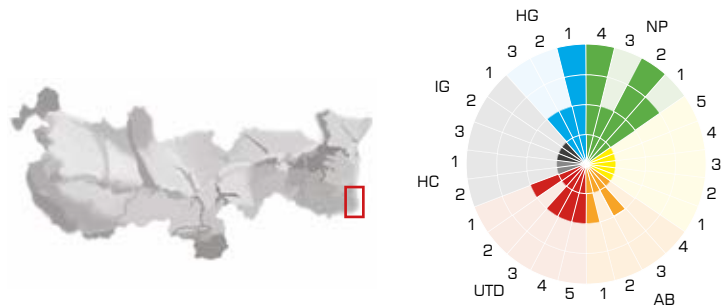
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Focus local development plans on the restoration of the city centre historical buildings and monuments and create strict urbanism rules to protect cultural heritage
- 2>Implement adequate measures to fight against the erosion in Mamaia
- 3>Support investments in tourism facilities (Congress and event centre, etc.) and cultural festivals to lower tourism seasonality.

THREATS

Expansion of residential areas and of commercial buildings such as hotels, supermarkets, shopping malls or banks built without respecting strict urbanism rules change the overall look of older neighbourhoods. The beach erosion is a danger for the Mamaia resort future.





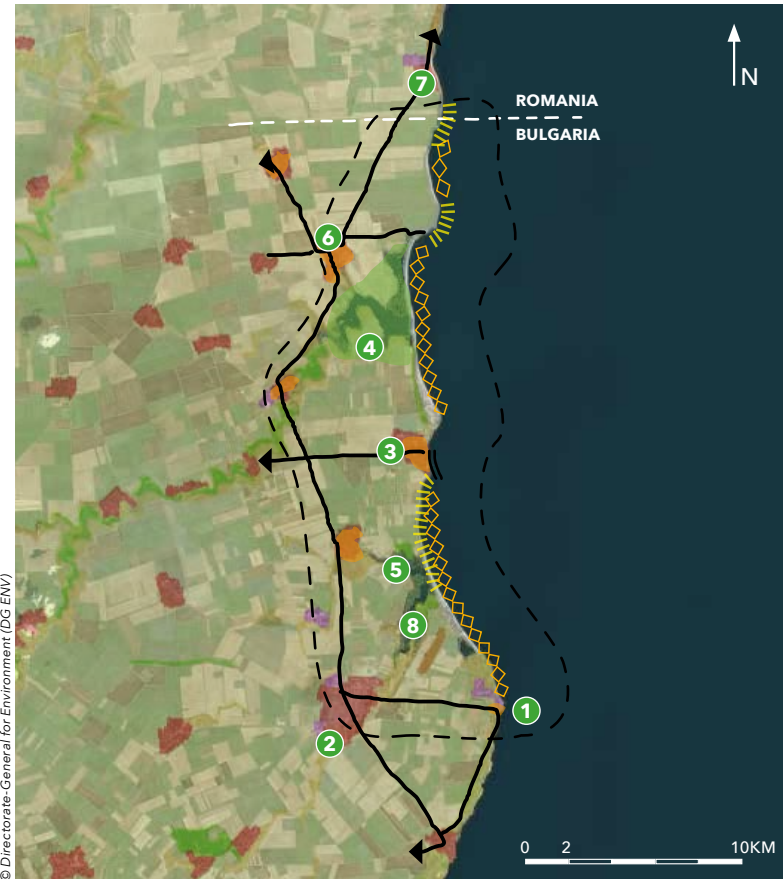
LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Landscape Unit is bordering Romania to the North and the Black Sea to the East. This low plateau area, slenderly elevated and inclined towards the sea, is part of the so called Mizian plate. The seaside level is low and scattered by cliff segments formed in loess sediments. Three major wetlands represent the main landscape features- Shabla lake, Durankulak lake and Durankulak marsh. The Shabla Lake is a lagoon, situated 3 km east of Shabla, with a rich flora and separated from the sea by a sand bar with an 80 meters width. Its banks are overgrown with reeds and bulrushes and its surface by water lilies. The Durankulak lake and Durankulak marsh are connected through overgrown swamps and abandoned fish-ponds. This marshy barrier parallel to the beach hinders any direct access to it. The seaside's part of the Landscape Unit has a length of approximately 25 kilometres and is composed of several beaches that can spread for some of them on several kilometres and that are separated by low height rocky sections. These wide and natural beaches are predominantly plain or with dunes and are mainly constituted of fine sands and of finely grounded mussel shells. This part of the Bulgarian Seaside has been preserved until now from mass tourism and is far to be overbuilt. The Krapets village is the only settlement located next to the beach and has the typical elongated form of a coastal village. The other settlements such as Vlaklino, Durankulak or Ezerets are situated several kilometres from the sea.



POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Cape Shabla 2/ Shabla 3/ Krapets 4/ Durankulak natural reserve
5/ Ezerets Lake 6/ Durankulak 7/ Vama Veche (Romania) 8/ Shabla salty lake



© Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)



Dobrudja's trees protection for winter cold winds

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The local economy is small and dominated by agriculture and especially grain production, followed by livestock farming and small-scale fishing. The area was also well known for its small scale oil production from inland and sea oil fields. International companies are still investigating the possibility of discovering new deposits. Moreover, the area was also supposed to have shale gas reserves but following the government's ban on shale gas exploitation, no more investigations have been made. Seaside tourism is not developed due to the beaches low accessibility but is starting to grow for the last five years due to the ecotourism trend and the growing clientele who wants to avoid mass tourism destination such as the increasing number of Romanian tourists looking for more remote places.

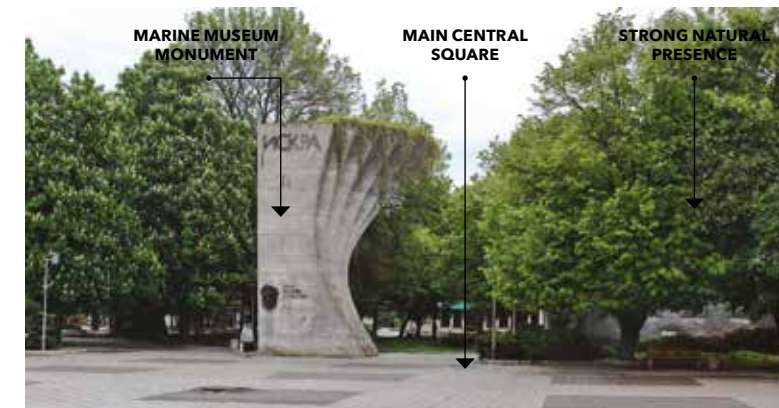
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The area offers beautiful landscapes with its wild large sandy beaches and its Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites such as the Durankulak lake, the Shabla lake and the Shabla Tuzla that contains therapeutic muds. These salted lakes provide important winter habitats for numerous bird species such as the red-breasted geese. Moreover, these wetlands offer complementary activities to the seaside ones and clearly positioned the area as a sustainable tourism destination. The Shabla's lighthouse is the area's landmark and demarcates the landscape unit from its southern part characterised by limestone cliffs. It is the oldest and the tallest lighthouse in Bulgaria with 32 meters height.

THREATS

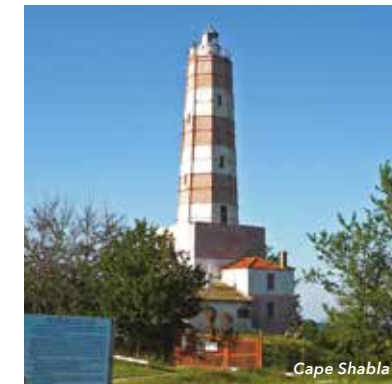
Whereas, many areas on the Black Sea Coast have to struggle against mass tourism and urbanization negative outcomes, here the authenticity has been kept. The first threat is population's migration and can only be countered by the development of tourism which has to be conceived from the beginning in a sustainable way. Here, people still have the chance to define which kind of tourism they want and at what scale. Then if any landscape policy has to be implemented, it has to be with the civil society's participation.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



RECOMMENDATIONS

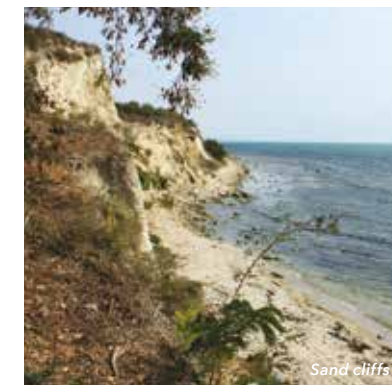
- 1>Repair the secondary roads to give a better access to the seaside villages and support the development of seasonal green public transport to give access to the beach
- 2>Awareness raising and public consultation about the development of sustainable tourism and support to the development of small sized accommodations through European funds
- 3>Creation of a continuous bicycle road along the cliffs with stop areas with special access to the sea



Cape Shabla



Fishermen on their way for a good catch

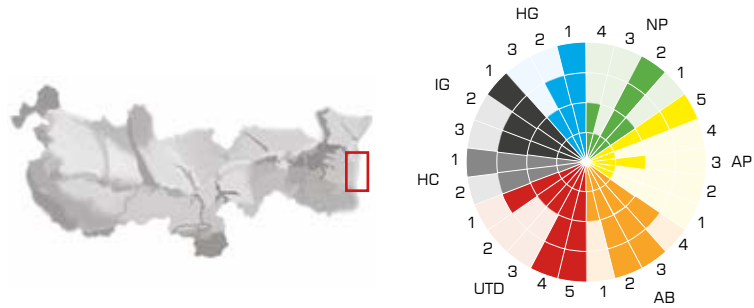


Sand cliffs



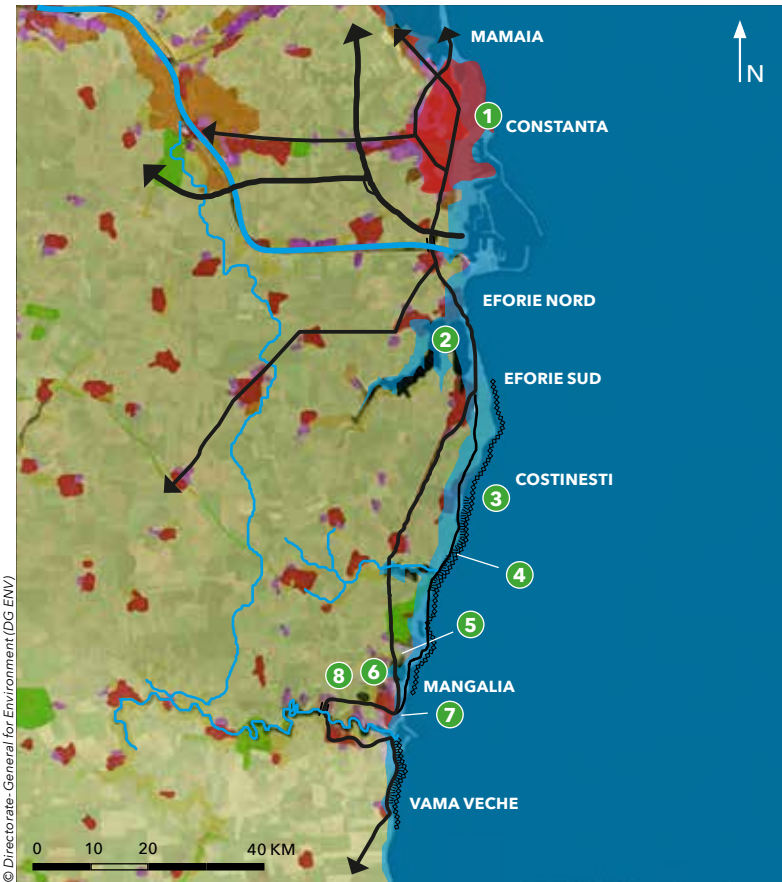
«Wild» beach





POINTS OF INTEREST

1/ Constanta city 2/ Techirghiol lake 3/ The shipwreck of Costinesti 4/ Vernacular fishermen's village 5/ Mangalia stud farm 6/ Obanul Mare natural reservation 7/ Callatis ancient fortress 8/ Mounds



LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS & EVOLUTION

The Landscape Unit represents an approximative 56 kilometres long strip along the Black Sea Coast. Starting North in the Mamaia sandy beaches, the national road goes until the Bulgarian border and is bounded by hills and seaside resorts. The main landscape features are the cliffs, the sandy beaches and of course the Black sea. The cliffs are made of sandstones and limestones covered with a loess layer. The sarmatian limestones are also covered by the sea in some place where they form a submarine "floor". The intermediate area between the land and the sea includes sand and wetlands that are not covered by seawater at low tide, reefs and sand composed of Mollusca shell debris and alluvial deposits dropped off by the sea. The sand deposits have a maximum height of 2,5 meters and a width of up to 400 meters. The tourism development of the area started during the interwar period and accelerated during the 1960's. The communist authorities wanted to attract foreign tourists in order to obtain foreign currencies and to propose holidays destination for the local workers in order to rest and to increase their productivity once back at work. The construction of these typical 60's and 70's resorts for mass tourism changed the traditional landscape of small fishing villages in a irreversible way.

READING THE LANDSCAPE



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FEATURES

The main economic activity is tourism except in Mangalia because of its shipyard and in Agigea because of its port situated at the exit of the Danube-Black Sea channel. Seaside residents are usually commuters that work in Mangalia or in Constanta due to the high seasonality of Romanian tourism seaside and to the lack of investments in this sector. Moreover, Romanian seaside has become mainly a national tourism destination after the fall of communism and is facing now the competition of other seaside destinations such as Bulgaria, Turkey or Greece that are becoming more and more popular for the national tourism clientele. Indeed, Romanian seaside has to enhance its tourism offer by upgrading the accommodations and tourism facilities and by developing complementary tourism offers linked with its natural and cultural heritage or its wellness products using its several spa resorts and the Techirghiol salted lake with its therapeutic mud.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

This area had strong links with the Mediterranean and Asia Minor regions since Antiquity. The first Greek «colonies» appeared in the middle of the 1st millennium BC with the creation of the Tomis and Histria trading posts. Then, these Greek colonies became part of the Roman Empire that let a rich cultural heritage in the area. After the fall of the Byzantine Empire, the Ottoman Empire ruled this territory during centuries as it wanted to control the entire Black Sea seashore. The area was integrated in the modern Romanian territory at the end of the 19th century. Remains of this rich history can be found all along the way from Constanta to the Bulgarian border. Moreover, the area is scattered by seaside Natura 2000 areas such as the Vama Veche - 2 Mai site, the Black Sea area or the Costinesti area well known for their rich fauna.

THREATS

The main threats are linked to the Black Sea erosion process that is continuously narrowing the beaches, the uncontrolled real estate development in the seaside resorts and the pollution due to the industrial and port activities, especially the refineries that were built during the communist period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

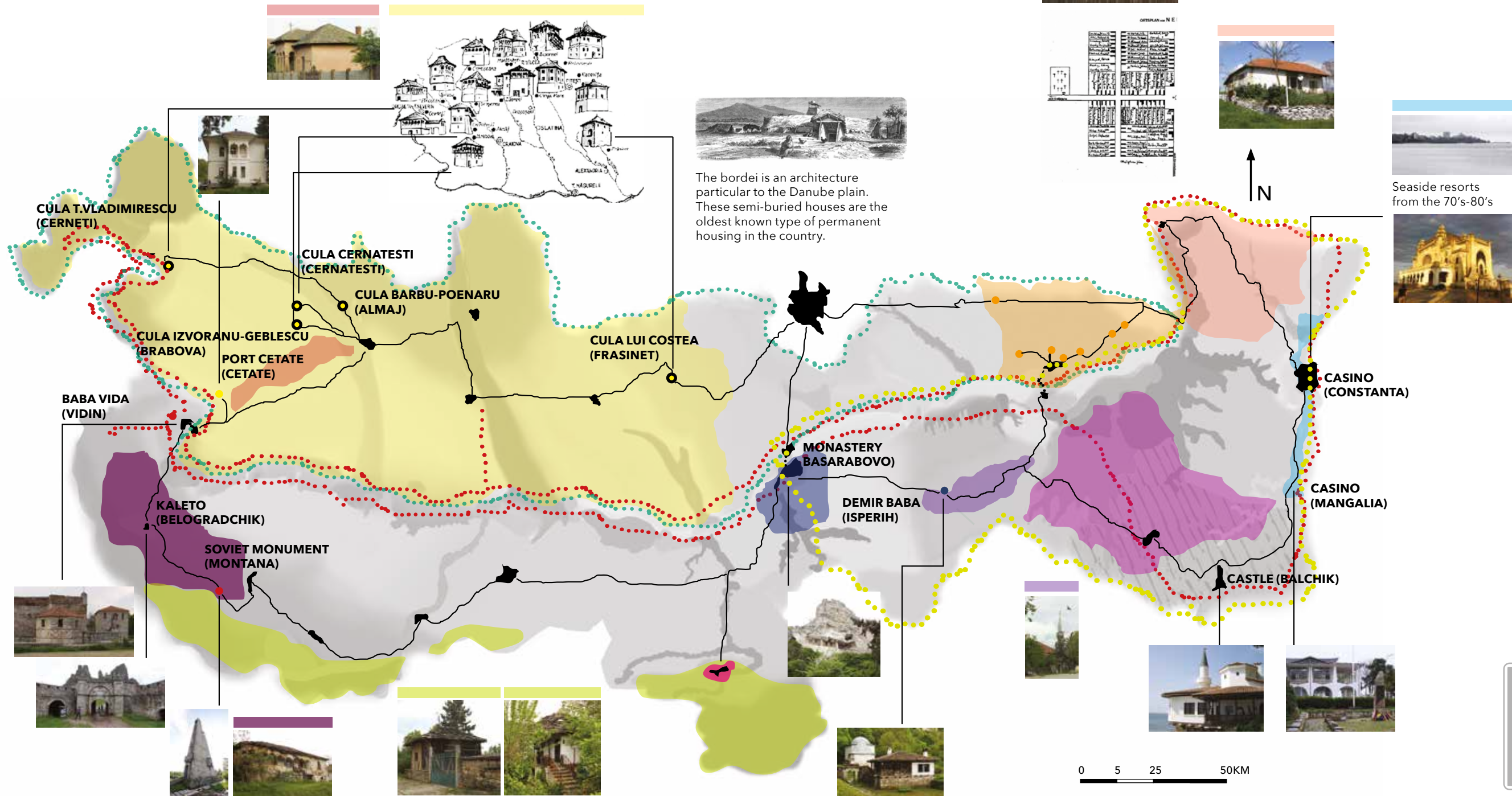
- 1>Focus on renovating and promoting the cultural and natural heritage and create new tourism facilities in order to tackle the seasonality challenge and to offer permanent jobs to the local workforce
- 2>Support the modernisation of the existing accommodations through National and European funds or create special low interest loans.
- 3>Accelerate and complete the implementation of infrastructures to fight against sea erosion



THEMATIC LANDSCAPE UNITS



View on Vidin - Calafat / VIDIN-MEHEDINTI



Both countries have a rich vernacular heritage and encounter difficulties in preserving it. One of the main differences in vernacular architecture between both countries is the use of stones that is common in Bulgaria but specific to very special monuments in Romania because of the lack of quarries.

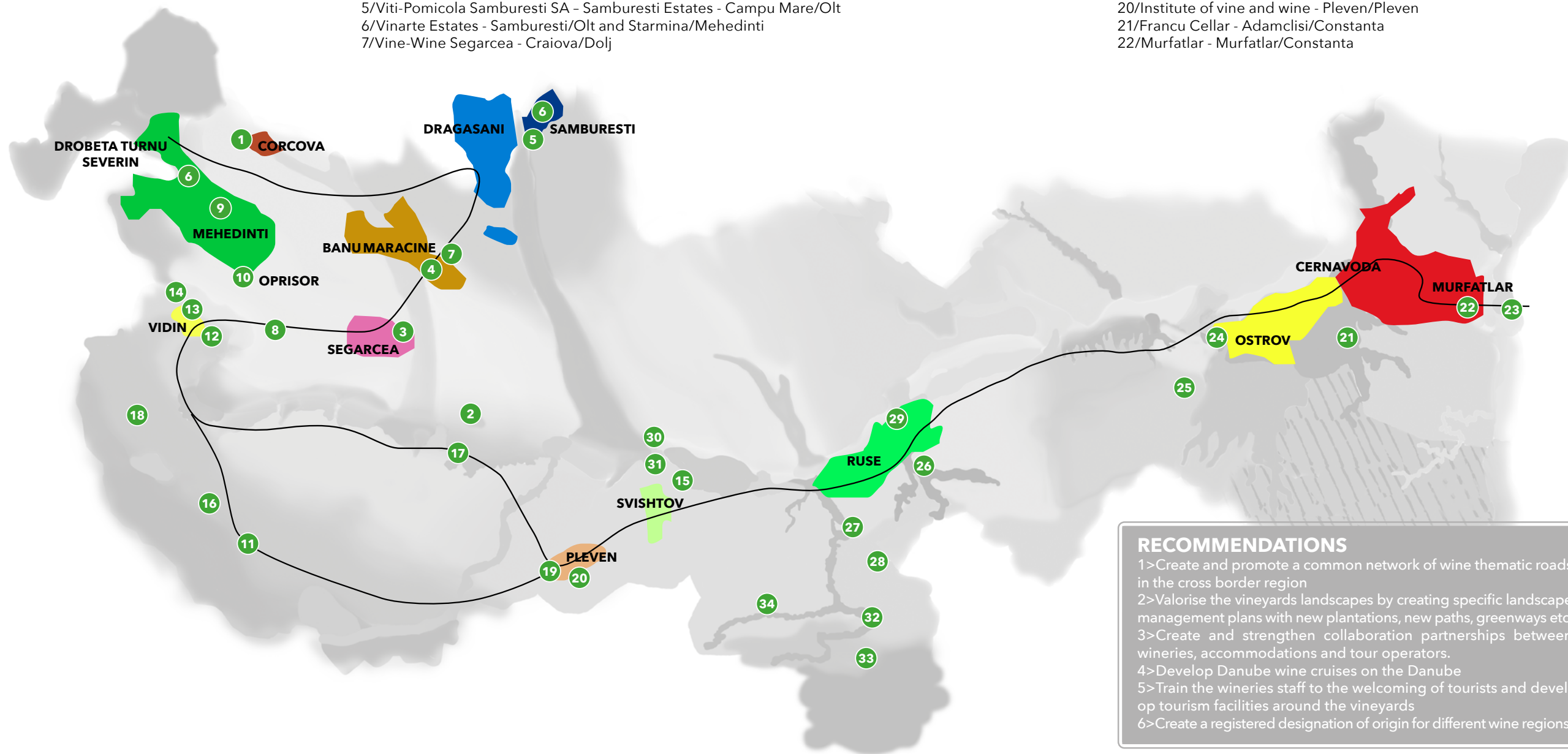
- EXTRA URBAN MANSIONS AREA (16TH-20TH A.D.)
- CULAS AREA
- TYPICAL VILLAGES FROM THE 1930'S
- COLONY VILLAGES BUILT BY POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING THE 1950'S DEPORTATION
- TYPICAL DOBRUDJAN HOUSES
- SEASIDE 1960'S ARCHITECTURE
- INDUSTRIAL/ AGRICULTURAL VILLAGES
- VILLAGES WITH MOSQUES
- ROCK-HEWN CHURCHES IN RUSENSKI LOM PARK
- VELIKO TARNOVO
- VILLAGES THAT USE STONES AS MAIN BUILDING MATERIAL
- TRADITIONAL DOBRUDJA VILLAGES
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FROM 5000 B.C.-1300 A.D. (SEE ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SHEET)
- AREA WHERE MOUNDS ARE VISIBLE IN THE LANDSCAPE (SEE ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SHEET)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1> Create partnerships between public authorities and private owners of historical heritage
- 2> Create thematic roads in order to valorise the cultural heritage
- 3> Use of European funds at national and cross border level in order to renovate and to promote the cultural heritage

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1/Corcova Roy & Damboviceanu - Corcova/Mehedinti
- 2/Research and Development Station for Plant Growing on Dabuleni Sand - Dabuleni/Dolj
- 3/"The Crown Estate" Wine-Cellar of Segarcea - Segarcea/Dolj
- 4/"Banu Maracine" Research Station - Craiova/Dolj
- 5/Viti-Pomicola Samburesti SA - Samburesti Estates - Campu Mare/Olt
- 6/Vinarte Estates - Samburesti/Olt and Starmina/Mehedinti
- 7/Vine-Wine Segarcea - Craiova/Dolj



- 8/Cetate Cultural Port - Cetate Wine-Cellar - Cetate/Dolj
- 9/Vine-Wine Vanju Mare/Mehedinti
- 10/Carl Reh Winery SRL - Oprisor Cellar - Oprisor/Mehedinti
- 11/Lopushna Winery - Georgy Damyanovo/Montana
- 12/Vidinska Gamza Winery - Vidin/Vidin
- 13/Calotoff Winery - Vinarovo/Vidin
- 14/Novoselska Gamza - Novo Selo/Vidin
- 15/"Albena Simenova 1" LTD - Lyubenovo/Pleven
- 16/Borovitsa Winery - Borovitsa/Vidin
- 17/Chateau Burgozone - Chateau Burgozone/Vratsa
- 18/Magura Winery- Rabisha/Vidin
- 19/The Wine Museum - Pleven/Pleven
- 20/Institute of vine and wine - Pleven/Pleven
- 21/Francu Cellar - Adamclisi/Constanta
- 22/Murfatlar - Murfatlar/Constanta

- 23/Constanta Wine Cellar - Macin Winery - Constanta/Constanta
- 24/Ostrovit JSC - Ostrov/Constanta
- 25/Oprev winery - Dobrotitza/Silistra
- 26/Winery Raynoff & Sons - Nisovo/Ruse
- 27/Dve Mogili Winery - Dve Mogili/Ruse
- 28/Wine cellar - Village of Kamen - Kamen/Veliko Tarnovo
- 29/Vinprom Rouse Ltd. - Ruse/Ruse
- 30/ INTERVITT Ltd. - Zimnicea/Teleorman
- 31/Vinprom Svishtov - Svishtov/Veliko Tarnovo
- 32/Vinprom Lyaskovets - Lyaskovets/Veliko Tarnovo
- 33/Dia Khalis - Tzerova Koriya/Veliko Tarnovo
- 34/Lovico Suhindol - Suhindol/Veliko Tarnovo

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Eastern Danube region wine has a long history starting around 6 000 BC and is therefore one of the oldest wine-producing regions in the world. The different geographical features and the climate are very favourable for the cultivation of a great diversity of local or foreign variety of vines. The wine landscape was composed of large state vineyards during the communist period. Nowadays, the wine sector is completely privatized and is one of the most competitive agricultural sectors in both countries due to recent local and foreign investments in that field. Romanian and Bulgarian wines are becoming more and more qualitative thanks to the former state owned wineries modernisation and to the appearance of small and mid-sized producers. The area is also an important "house-wine" production areas and the villages or even the cities in the cross border area are scattered by house gardens full of grapes for the family own production. The continuous development of the wine sector is important for these declining rural areas, especially the less fertile ones, as it provides jobs and help to maintain the ecological balance.


Vineyards in Cernavoda region.

Vineyards in Ostrov region.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1>Create and promote a common network of wine thematic roads in the cross border region
- 2>Valorise the vineyards landscapes by creating specific landscape management plans with new plantations, new paths, greenways etc.
- 3>Create and strengthen collaboration partnerships between wineries, accommodations and tour operators.
- 4>Develop Danube wine cruises on the Danube
- 5>Train the wineries staff to the welcoming of tourists and develop tourism facilities around the vineyards
- 6>Create a registered designation of origin for different wine regions.

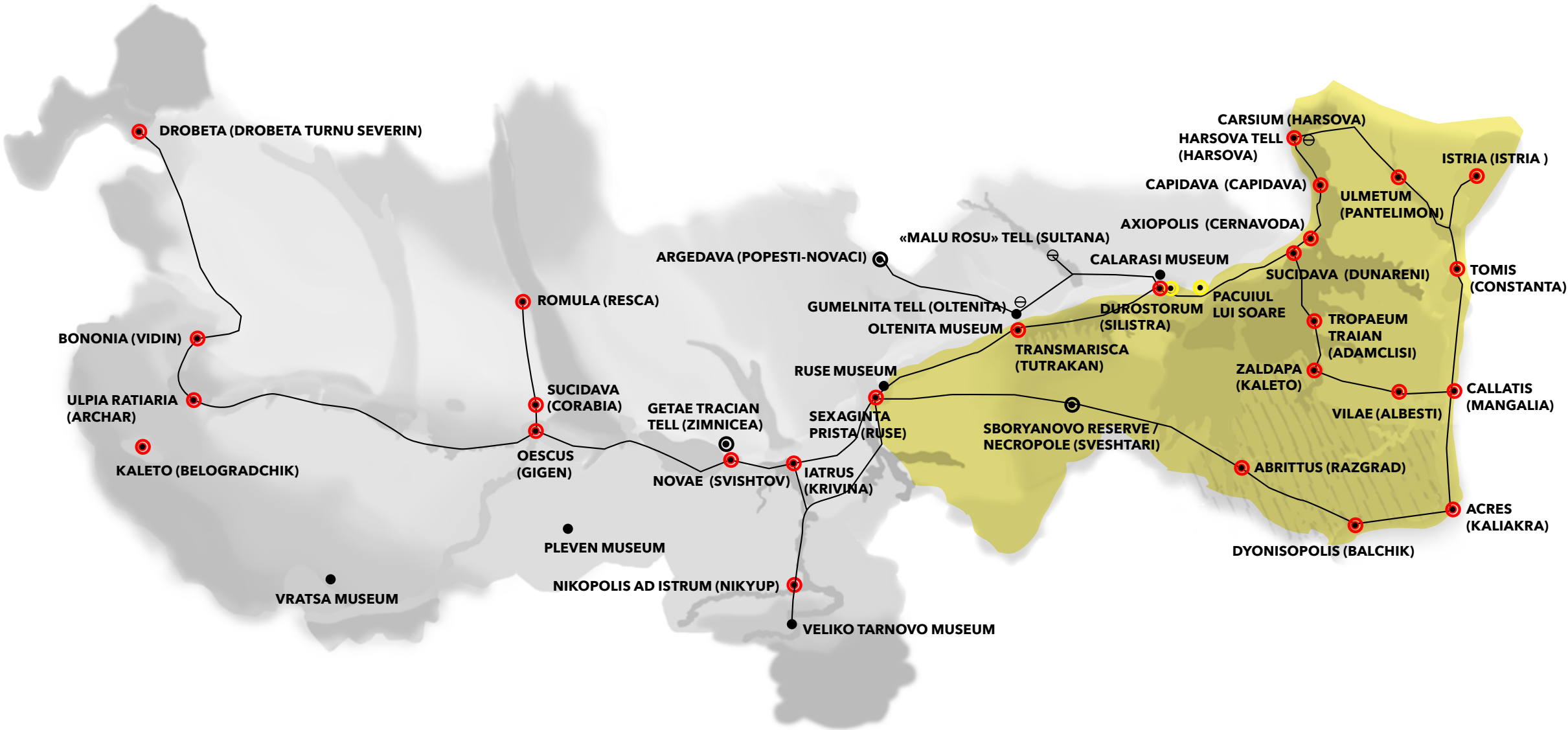
The Romania-Bulgaria cross border area is scattered by a rich archaeological heritage mainly located along the Danube River Basin which is a strategic axis for people and goods since ancient times. This area offered favourable conditions for the development of agriculture and hosted important Neolithic civilisation such as the Gumelnita, Hamangia, Boian, Varna or Vinca cultures between 5 500 BC and 3 000 BC, then from 3,000 BC theses civilizations began to decline. These populations practiced farming and herding and mastered advanced ceramic techniques. The Getae or Gets were Thracian tribes living on both sides of the Danube, in what is today the Romania Bulgaria cross border area. They developed, since the 7th century BC, strong economic and politic contacts with the hinterland of Greek colonies situated in the Dobrudja region, especially on the Black Sea Coast. The Getae civilisation flourished in the 300 century BC and is mainly visible through fortress remains, numerous «tumuli» (mound of earth and stones raised over a grave) and wonderfully positioned «tells». The Roman empire conquered the Getae during the second part of the First century BC, approximately between 30 BC and 16 BC, and created a network of castrum and settlements along the Danube in what was then called Moesia inferior, a province that covered Northern Bulgaria and Romanian Dobrudja. These castrum served as a basis for the conquest of Dacia that finished in 106 AD. Then, the Byzantine empire build new settlements or used previous Roman ones during its ruling period.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1>Protect the archaeological site in the urban planning documents and from the treasure hunters
2>Support archaeological diggings on existing and new heritage sites
3>Renovate the heritage sites and create interpretation facilities or small museums around the main sights.
4>Enhance the accessibility to the heritage sites.
5>Create joint strategy for the promotion of the cultural heritage at a cross border scale with the development of common thematic routes.
6>Increasing value of the archaeological landscape by creating specific landscape management plans for the heritage sites.

- ⊖ Neolithic cultures (Hamangia, Gumelnita...)
- 🗿 Areas with a «Mounds» landscape.
- ⦿ Getae sites
- 🔴 Hellenistic sites
- 🟡 Byzantine sites





PANORAMIC VIEWPOINTS TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES
PICNIC AREA

- 1>Picnic areas have to be integrated in the landscape, this is why we have to prefer natural and locals materials
- 2>«Less is more»: the projects have to protect the site, through soft landscaping actions as much as possible. The main objective for a picnic area's technical project must be to preserve the natural heritage and to have the minimum impact on the local ecosystem.
- 3>Grass, rocks, local plants (shrubs and trees) and few furnitures, made generally with local materials, have to be combined in order to ensure accessibility and security (information points, tables, benches, litter bins).
- 4>Information panels have to be placed in strategics points (not in the middle of the «scene»)
- 5>We underline the necessity of favouring a low density implementation of furnitures



> Initially, a picnic area was a beautiful place with a romantic atmosphere.

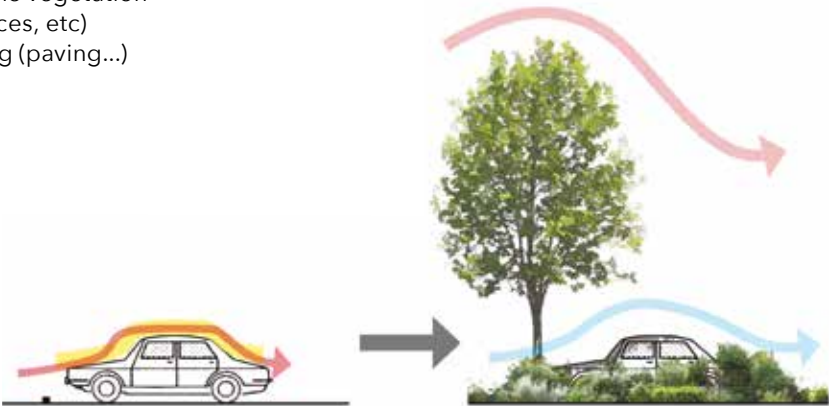


> The simplicity of the scenic viewpoint locations has to be preserved through the landscaping actions.

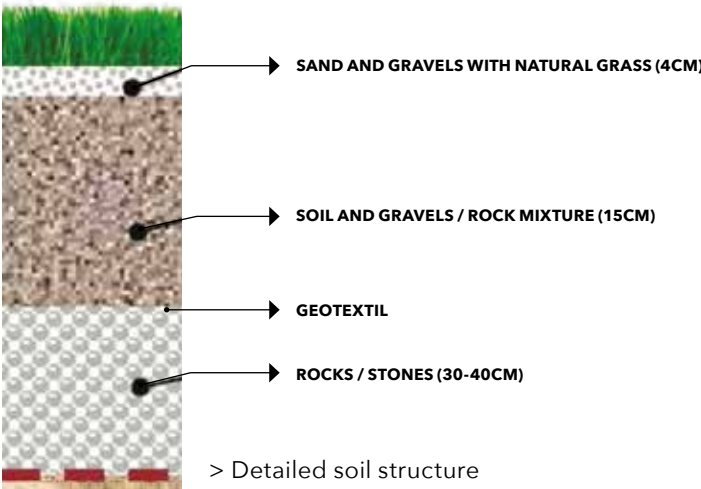
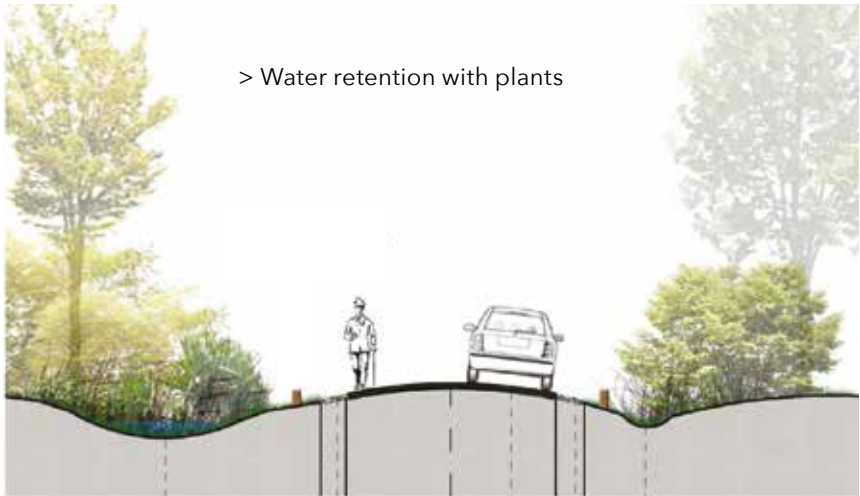


TECHNICAL GUIDELINES
LANDSCAPED PARKING AREA

- 1>Protection of the landscape by the integration of the vehicles in the vegetation
- 2>Create better climatic conditions for the parking area (shade places, etc)
- 3>Prefer soft landscaping actions (plantations...) to hard landscaping (paving...)
- 4>Planting news shrubs and trees of local species

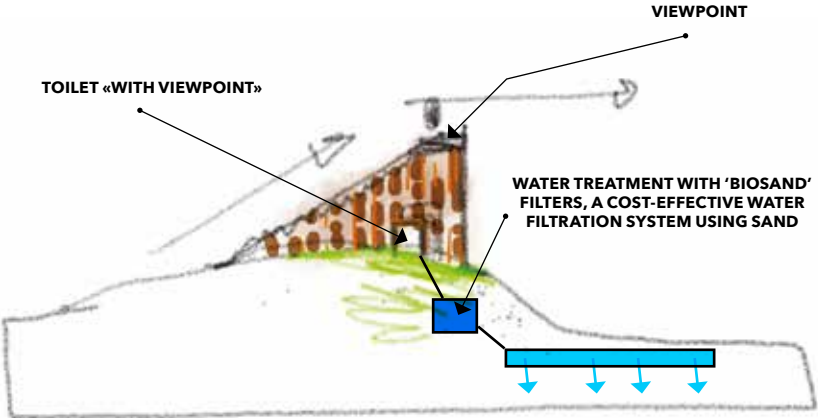


> Vegetation create better climatic conditions for touristic activities



TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TOILETS

- 1>When the site is highly visited, utilities like toilets become a main issue that must be tackled
- 2>Toilets have to be integrated in the geographical context (relief,vegetation, architecture...)
- 3>Water treatment has to be included in the building or a pumping system might be implemented
- 4>Toilets are not the main object, or the touristic focal point, they have to be discreet



> Integration in the slope with a green roof or in a touristic information point or behind a stone wall with a fountain



TECHNICAL GUIDELINES PEDESTRIANS PATHS

- 1>Paths have to be adapted to the local conditions (climate, relief, vegetation, etc.)
- 2>To favour local materials (grass, local sand or stone, concrete...)
- 3>Create a careful balance between anthropic elements and naturals elements
- 4>We recommend avoiding the use of precast concrete paving



Grass paths



Sand and rocks paths



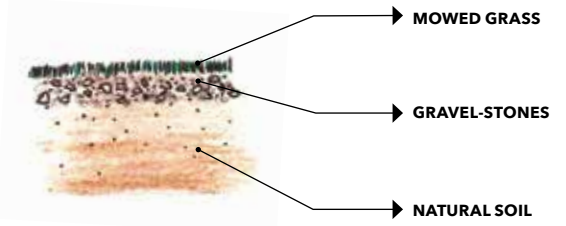
Wooden deck paths



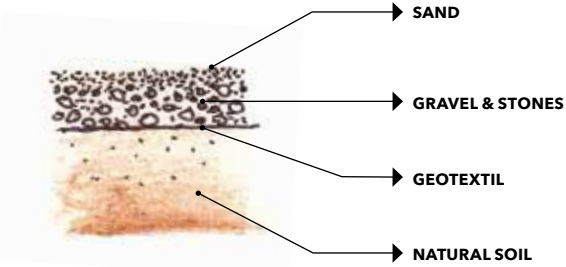
Concrete paths



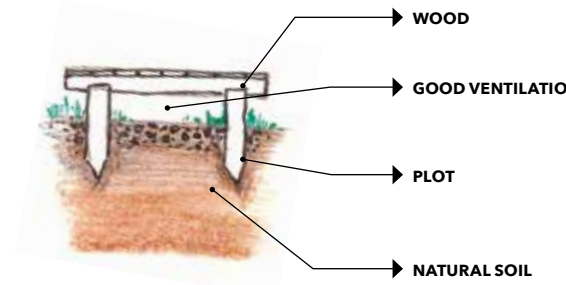
A careful balance



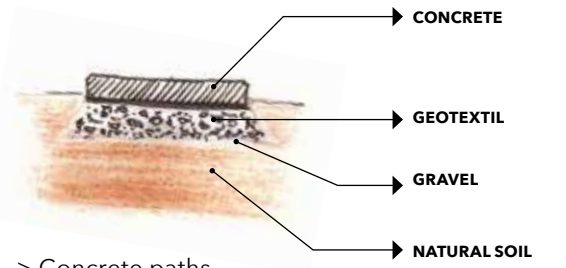
> Grass path



> Sand and rocks paths



> Wooden deck paths



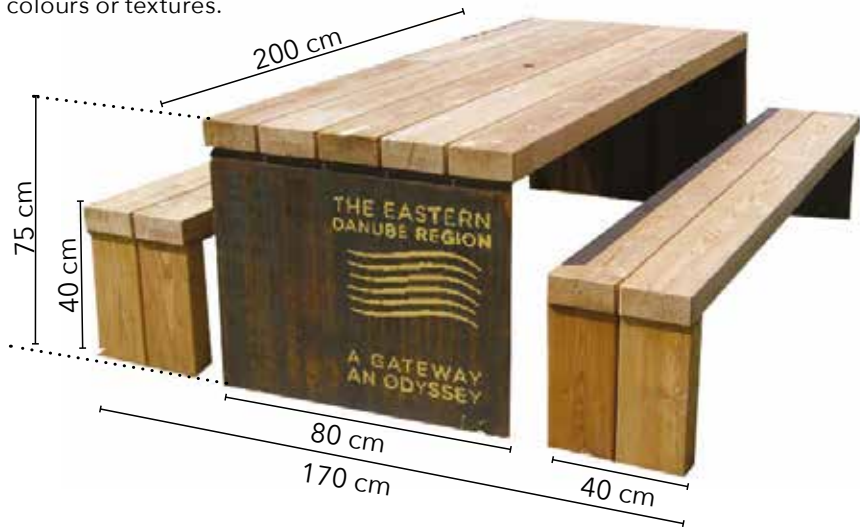
> Concrete paths

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES PICNIC TABLES

- 1>Contemporary design (not «rustic») to give a dynamic and modern image to the area
- 2>Ecological materials (local woods, steel and concrete)
- 3>Create special designs for the «regional logo» with different colours or textures.



> Local wood: oak or acacia



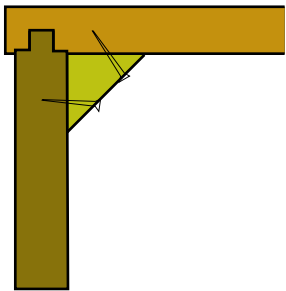
> Monocoloured electrostatic painting



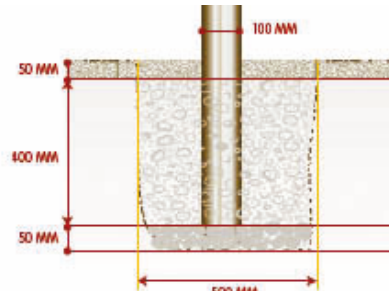
> Coloured electrostatic painting



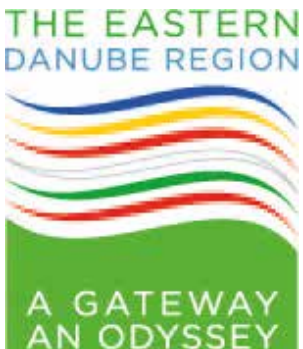
> Laser cutting



> Traditional assembled wood elements without visible screws



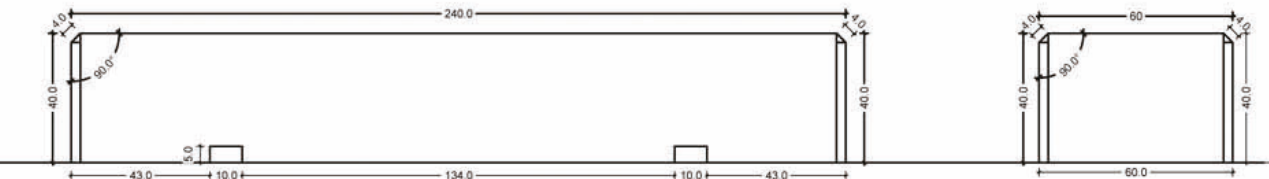
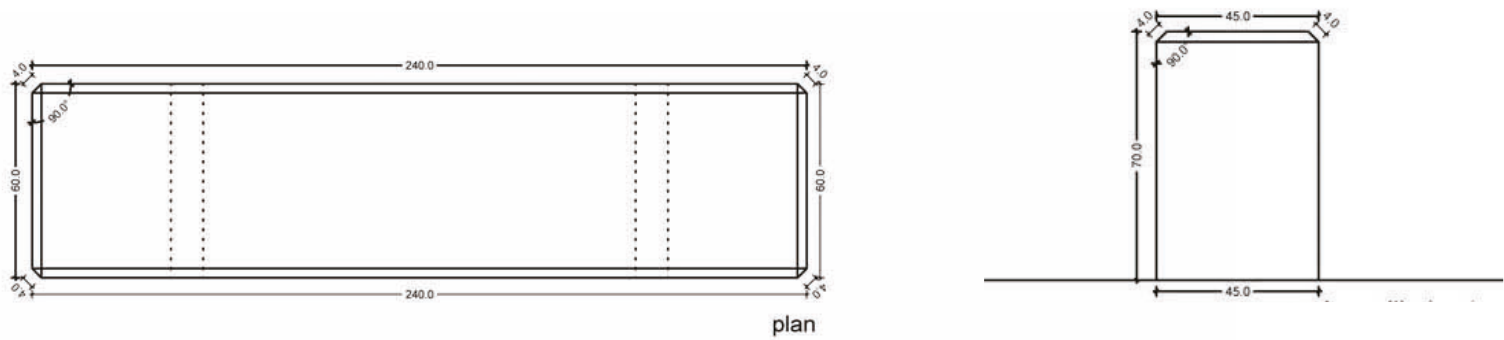
> Elements have to be put directly in concrete in the ground



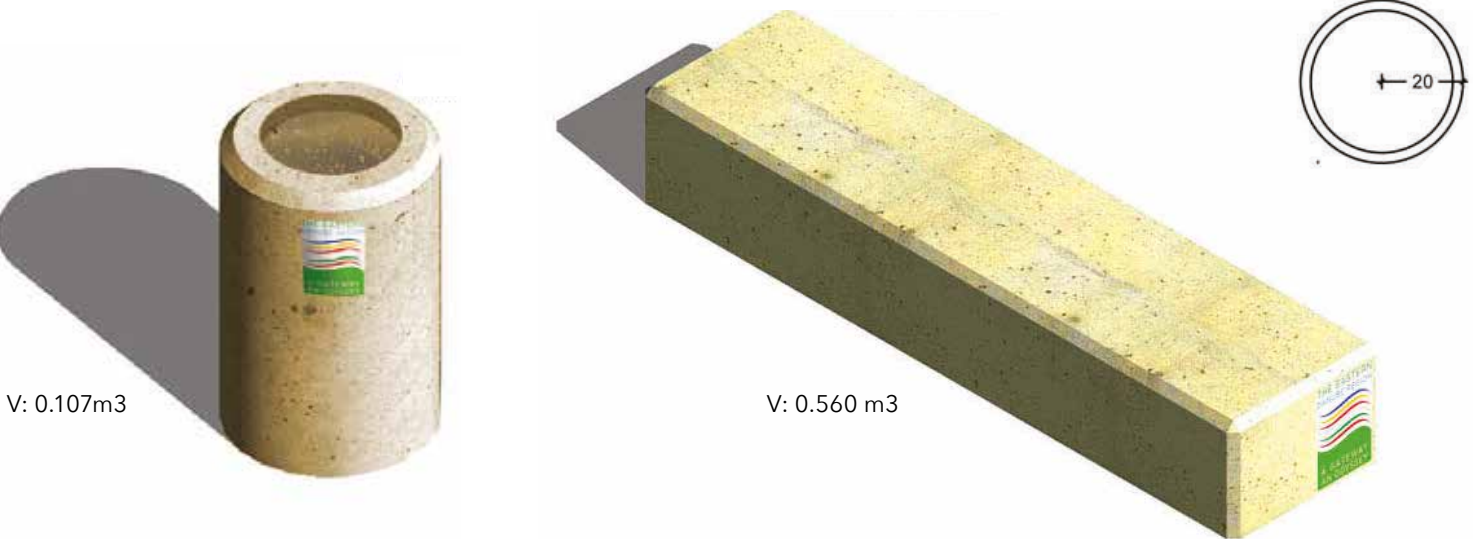
> The logo has to be visible on the furniture

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES BENCHES AND LITTER BIN

- 1>They must be designed taking into account the following special needs of being resistant and «theft-proof» as it is the case of concrete benches that are very heavy.
- 2>Concrete is an ecological material which can be made with local rocks
- 3>Concrete can have a special colour in harmony with the landscape (vegetation, mineral...)
- 4>Possibility to have personalized elements with the logo of the region

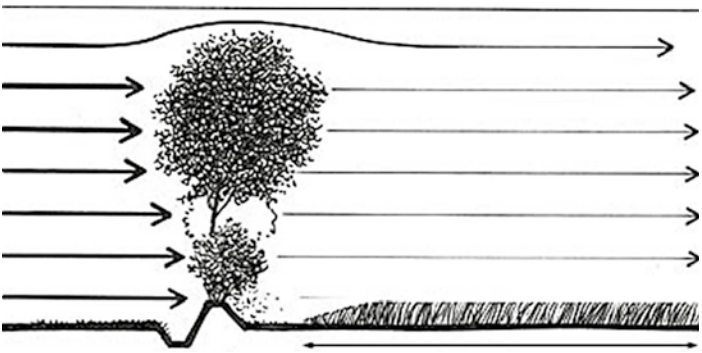


> Plan and elevations

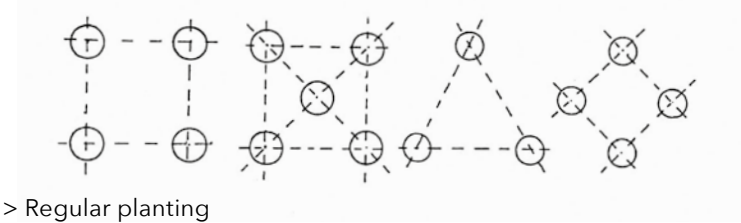


TECHNICAL GUIDELINES PLANTATIONS

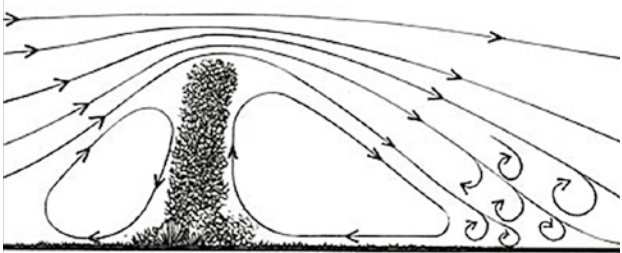
- 1> Integrate touristic infrastructure in the landscape using vegetation
- 2> Increase local biodiversity
- 3> Offer new habitats for local flora and fauna
- 4> Create new windbreaks or shaded areas
- 5> Use innovative technique for sustainable plantations (mulch...)



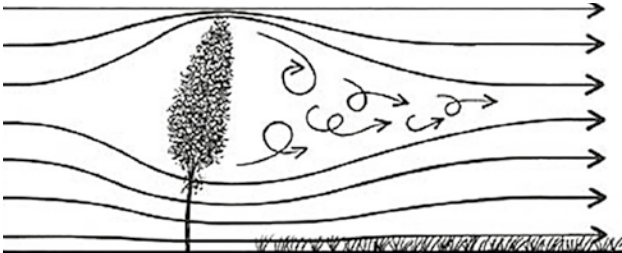
> Mixed windbreak (trees+shrubs)



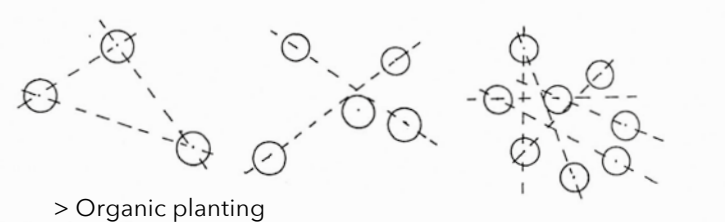
> Regular planting



> Sempervirens and compact windbreak



> Band of trees



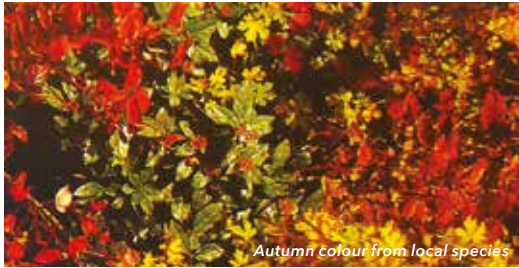
> Organic planting



Trees shrubs and herbaceous plants



Mixed colored and textured plantations



Autumn colour from local species



Plough the soil and mulch it



Use young plants



Ensure plantations maintenance

TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TOTEM & INFORMATIONS PANELS

- 1> Contemporary design (not «rustic») to create a dynamic and modern feeling of the area
- 2> Ecological materials (local woods, steel and concrete)
- 3> Create a special design linked with the «logo of the regional brand» using different colours or textures
- 4> Include raised letters or Braille lettering



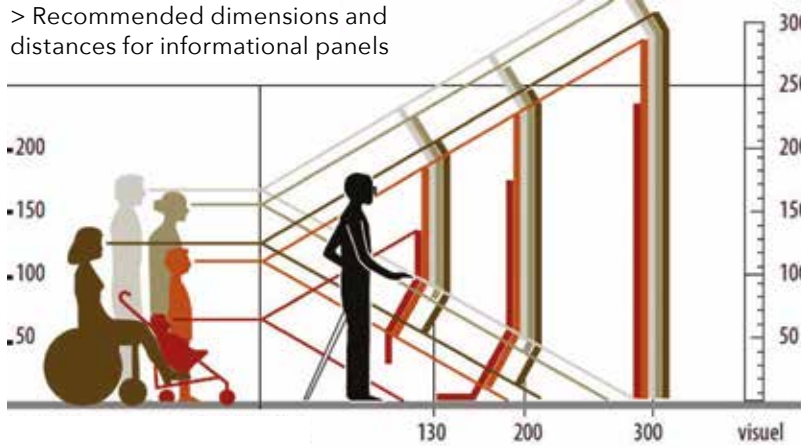
> Concrete or wooden information panels with a «landscape framing»



TECHNICAL GUIDELINES **ANIMALS OBSERVATION POINT**

- 1> Observation points have to be adapted to the local conditions (long wall or high tower...)
- 2> Build with local woods : oak, larch...
- 3> Constructions should take into account the surrounding vegetation in order to ensure a good integration in the landscape
- 4> Informations panels should be installed in and nearby the observations points
- 5> Observation points should have a good accessibility for groups of tourists, children, disabled...

> Recommended dimensions and distances for informational panels



> Wildlife observation points that are constructed from wood and are adapted to the landscape : wall, tower...



TECHNICAL GUIDELINES **WOODEN GUARDRAILS FOR SCENIC DRIVE**

- 1> Create a more attractive landscape view from the road
 - 2> Associate wood with high security technology to ensure safety and a comfortable road.
- For example, guardrails can be made of a steel structure that is covered with woods elements on its visible parts.

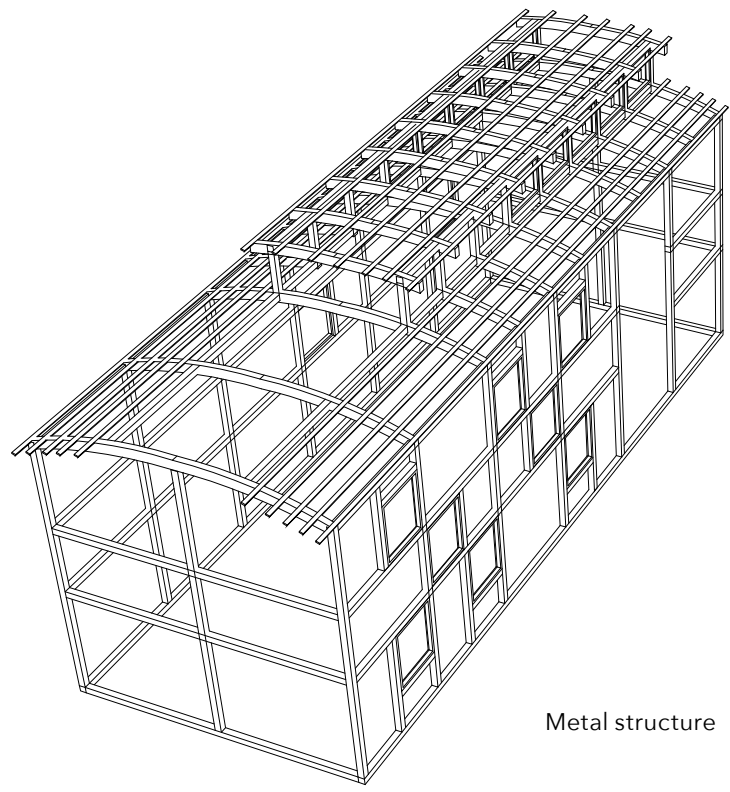


DETAILED PROJECT
THE PANORAMIC CARAVAN

The Panoramic Caravan will be a special and innovative place to contemplate and to learn about Landscapes by understanding its complex structure. Landscapes are dynamics structures that may require “dynamic equipment and facilities” for the organisation of raising awareness and promotion activities. This panoramic viewpoint has been thought as a mobile one. Therefore, the caravan will be towed all over the cross border area to organize events or to promote unknown areas.



Accredited flatbed trailer

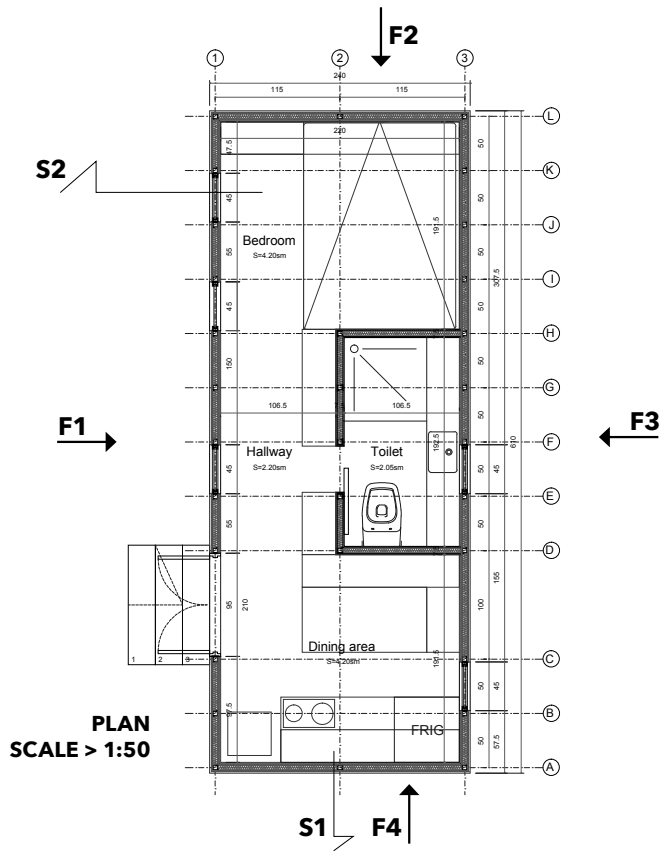


Metal structure

Moreover, one of the main focus is to ease its integration in the cross border area landscapes. Therefore, the panoramic caravan will look like exactly as the apiary caravans in search of pollen that we usually see by the roadsides. It will be composed of a wooden a panoramic viewpoint space carried by a 5 ton deckover flatbed trailer and will be adapted simultaneously to the needs of long journeys and to the organisation of raising awareness events (presentations, films, discussions...). The modern “apiary” panoramic viewpoint will be made of a metal structure of rectangular stainless steel pipes with hemp fibre insulation, OSB panels and wooden finishes. In order to keep thermal comfort and extend the possibility of use in winter times, the walls will be recovered of hemp fibres. The interior space can be arranged and furnished in different ways in order to adapt easily to the various activities that will be organised: bird watching, film screening, cafe, discussions room...

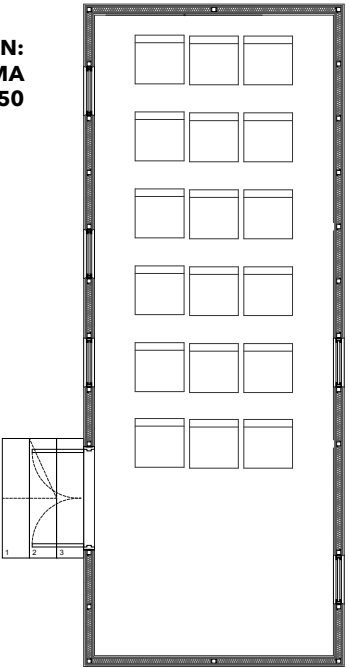


PLANS

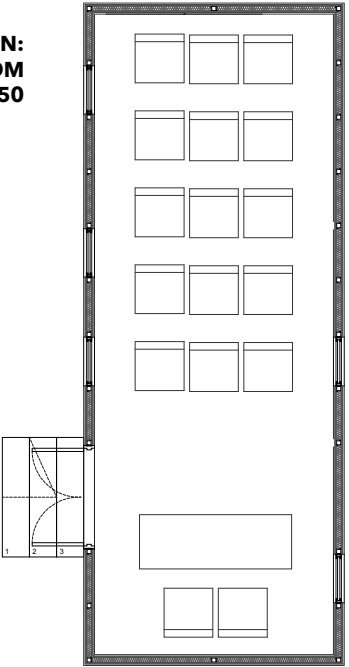


PLAN
SCALE > 1:50

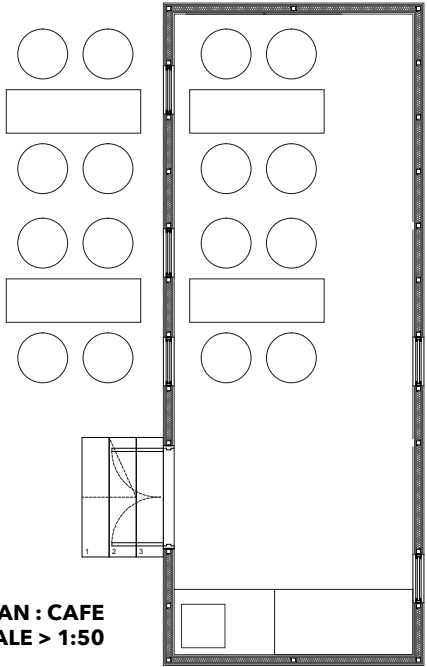
ALTERNATIVE PLAN:
CINEMA
SCALE > 1:50



ALTERNATIVE PLAN:
DISCUSSION ROOM
SCALE > 1:50



ALTERNATIVE PLAN : CAFE
SCALE > 1:50



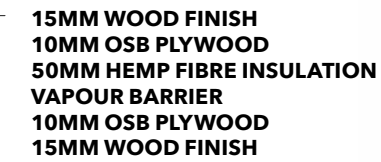
VIEWS



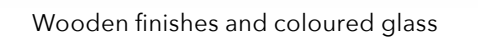
SECTIONS



WALL STRUCTURE DETAIL

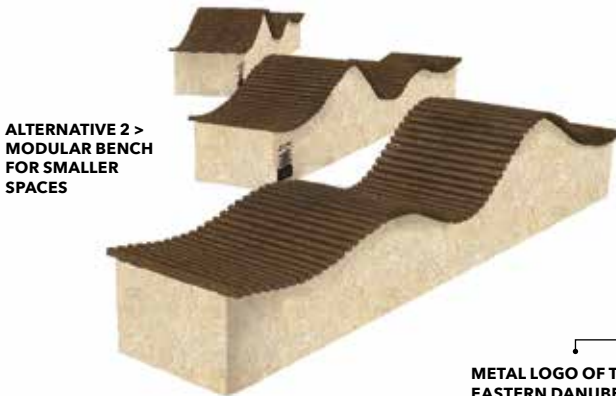


Wood finish



DETAILED PROJECT THE PANORAMIC BENCH

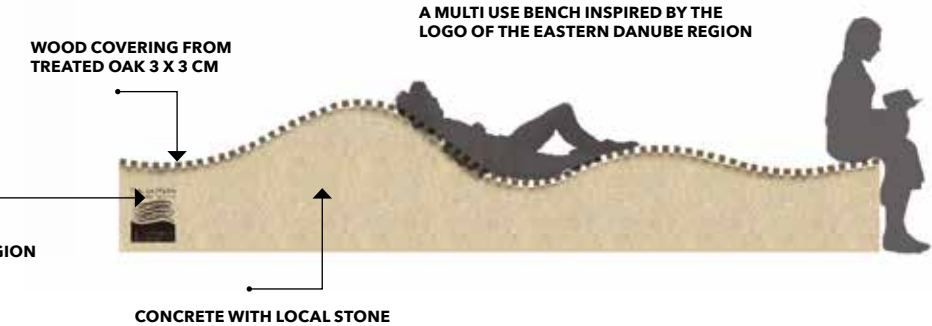
Most of the panoramic viewpoints, identified in the Eastern Danube Region, need to be renovated and lack of designed outdoor furnitures that encourage travelers to stop to rest and contemplate the landscapes while better understanding their features and history. Beautiful open spaces besides the road, hidden corners on the hills or in the city could be arranged with modular benches that mark the panoramic view point as a resting place. This innovative furniture will be made of concrete with local conglomerate (local stones) in order to get a durable and easy to maintain surface. The wood covering will bring comfort and a nice design while integrating the furniture in its environment.



ALTERNATIVE 2 > MODULAR BENCH FOR SMALLER SPACES



ALTERNATIVE 1 > A PLATFORM THAT GATHERS PEOPLE AND INVITES THEM TO LOOK AT THE LANDSCAPE



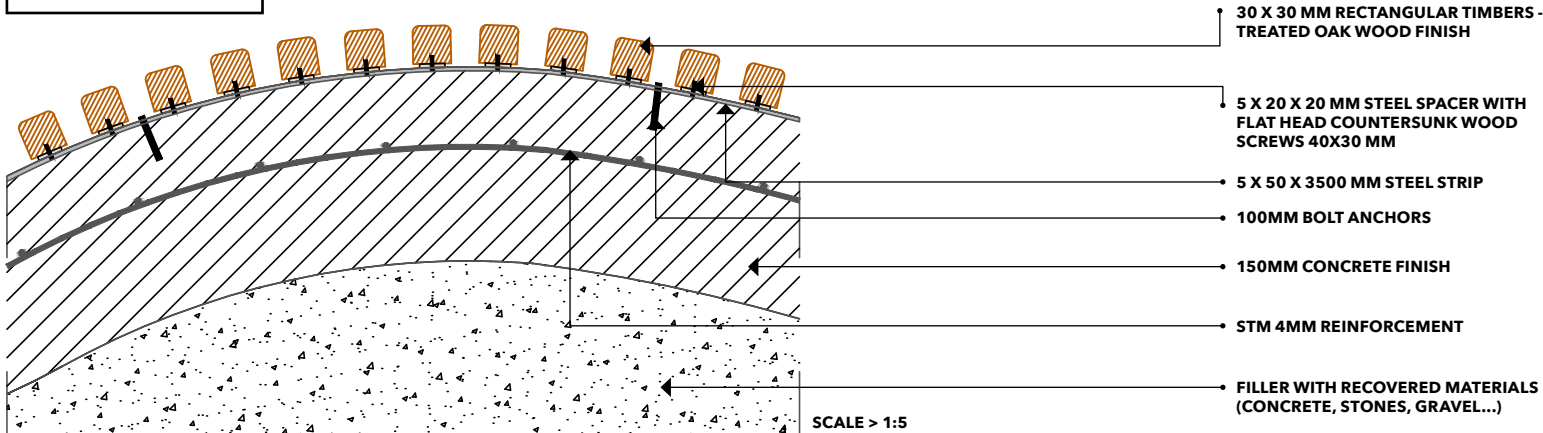
A MULTI USE BENCH INSPIRED BY THE LOGO OF THE EASTERN DANUBE REGION

WOOD COVERING FROM TREATED OAK 3 X 3 CM

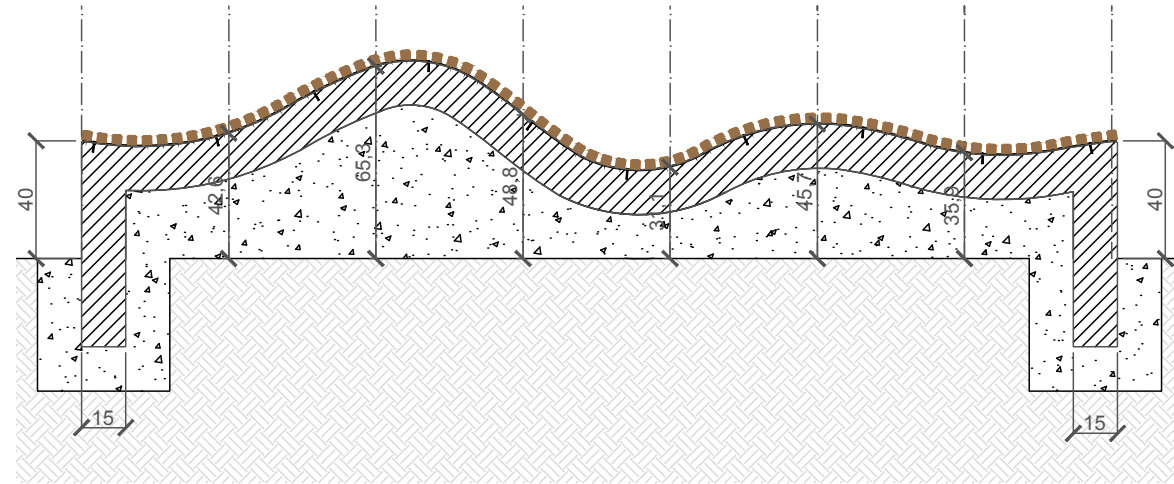
METAL LOGO OF THE EASTERN DANUBE REGION

CONCRETE WITH LOCAL STONE

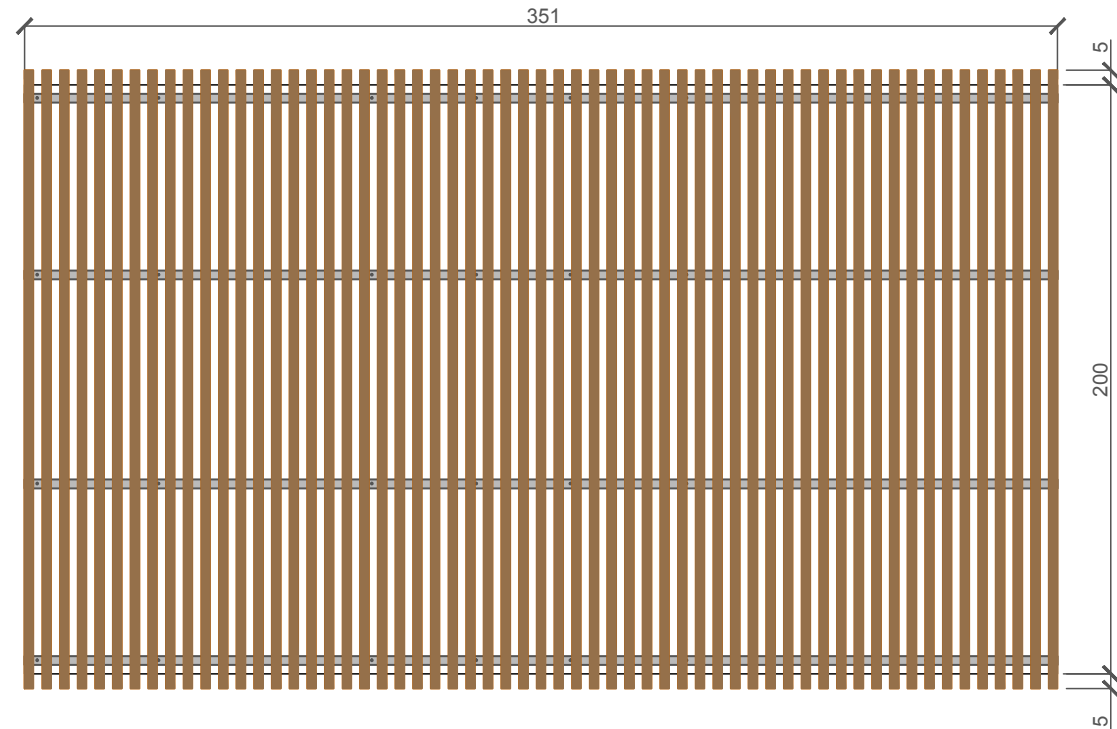
BENCH DETAIL



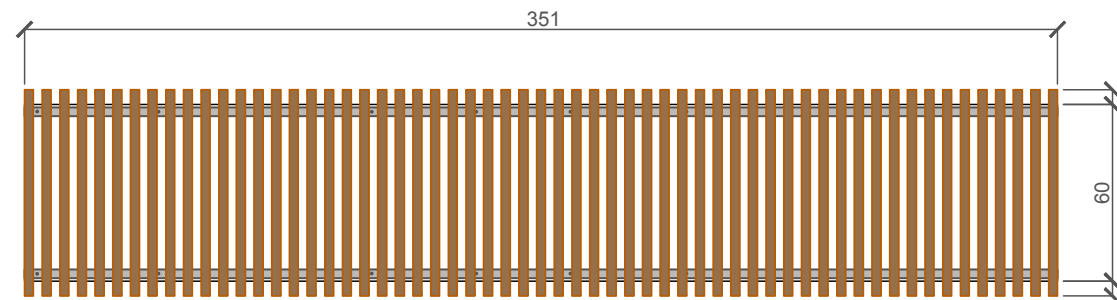
SCALE > 1:5



SECTION
SCALE > 1:20



PLAN ALTERNATIVE 1
SCALE > 1:20



PLAN ALTERNATIVE 2
SCALE > 1:20

BIBLIOGRAPHY / PICTURES

LU 2 / ADA KALEH - SIMIAN / MEHEDINTI

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Ada-Kaleh.jpg>
http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-beP5-f53W38/TwwUwTi7SZI/AAAAAAAAAMFg/wAr1tIm7WgQ/s640/Ada_Kaleh_cca_1950.jpg
<http://patrickleighfermor.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/ada-kaleh-cafe.jpg>
<http://alexisphoenix.org/images/romania/adahkalehpaperfig2.jpg>

LU 11 / ROMANESCU PARK / DOLJ

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-Xm46W4oeSgw/UG10wUNmwjI/AAAAAAAAABk/A6PmQthmkVE/s1600/parc_plan.jpg

CAZANELE, SCENIC DRIVE / MEHEDINTI

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