

POSSIBILITIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AREA BY PRACTICING GENEALOGICAL TOURISM

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Abstract: *Modern form of alternative tourism, genealogic tourism experiences a period of prosperity at regional level in a multicultural space as it is the Banat area from Romania and contributes to sustainable development of this area, where more and more travel agents include in the packages offered for sale offers for trips for German and Austrian tourists whose ancestors have lived on these lands. The purpose of travel is the discovering of the German roots, knowledge of the great writers of German literature, customs and traditions, the schools, churches with specific architectural style, post headquarters, specific households, the traditional architecture of living spaces, the crafts practiced and popular costumes, baroque monuments from common market. The use of these anthropic resources in tourism, in general, contributes to the sustainable development of these multicultural areas causing the development of genealogical tourism as a form of niche tourism.*

Key words: *area, sustainable development, genealogical tourism*

INTRODUCTION

Genealogical tourism represents a modern form of alternative tourism with recreational entertaining cultural valences, having as main purpose searching of the roots of the family which today lives in a certain area and has abandoned these lands from various reasons, finding a new job, a life without worry, voluntarily emigration or forced displacement in certain historical phases [1,2,6,9]. This form of ancestry tourism knows today a moment of flowering at national and international level when younger people visit the places where sometime their ancestors once left voluntarily or forced and were unable to return ever [12,13]. From these reasons agents of tourism develop tourism products that meet the needs of these consumers eager to gather information about their families [11]. This modern form of tourism is a new method of full recovery also of the rural area with its great agricultural, cultural, human, technical-economic potential, the offer personifying itself, diversifying itself and becoming authentic and specific to each area according to the multiculturalism of the area, language, traditions and customs as an alternative at standard tourist offer [3,5,10].

Modern form of alternative entertaining tourism with cultural valences can contribute to sustainable development in the territory of the local economy, protecting the environment through sustainable use of existing tourism resources with major implications on: the community by raising the standards of living, protecting natural and anthropic resources, protection cultural values through the multiplier effect of genealogic tourism [4,7,8].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Among the immigrants from Europe, to America, including from Transylvania and Banat, provinces of Romania were also Romanian citizens of different nationalities and religions, the emigration phenomenon has reached high level at the end of the nineteenth century and after the II World War. In our days the descendants of emigrants wishing to

discover the genealogical identity, to know the history of their ancestors and possibly to regain some relatives even distant of whose existence they ignored it maybe also because of the existent restrictions regarding the free movement of persons.

After the year 1989 a large proportion from the population of German ethnicity has emigrated in the country of origin, and for sustainable development of their home areas we consider that the genealogic tourism can contribute effectively to achieving this goal through the development of some cultural tourist products with alternative-entertaining character. Tourism operators will have to highlight from the three components of culture, higher cultural, folklore and popular culture of German origin, the multiculturalism with the language but also the ethnic symbols, the specific holidays of German community and also the religious events.

German traditions in Banat and Transylvania are certified through language, customs, traditions, decorative art, residential buildings, schools. Genealogical tourists who want to discover their roots still can see in some urban localities schools buildings, former municipalities, churches or in rural area schools, rural households, traditional workshops for metalworking, technological instrumentals for processing corn, hemp or tobacco.

The unity in diversity has never been better illustrated than the traditional port of Timiș Swabian, well identified in each locality where they lived in a certain period of time. Each locality is distinguished through specific popular costume, folk costumes in miniature can be seen at the Nicolaus Lenau Museum located on a genealogical route that we want to put in value for all those who want to rediscover their roots in this complex multicultural Banat area by practicing ancestry tourism. In the Lenauheim locality can be contemplated the building called Post Pub, today a museum, an authentic genealogical tourist attraction point with objects confirming the presence of Swabians in this area, the port, type of household and work tools, the Swabian concerns, the Roman Catholic Church in the most authentic rural Baroque, the second foundation of Austro-Hungarian Empire in Banat where organized the main celebrations of the community: weddings, baptisms, funerals feast and the traditional Kirwa, feast of Swabian with beliefs, customs and rules of common life. A house of German settlers reconstituted in situ in Post Pub include the living room of the owner with Biblical paintings on the walls, family pictures, the high bed, table and vase of flowers, cradle and baby seat, oil lamp for lighting. The bedroom had high bed, a dune for coverings and pillows, the bed being covered with blanket with lace and the kitchen has inside the necessary instrumentals for preparing food, authentic bowls linked in wire after a traditional method Drotos all and the pantry is filled with vegetables canned and meats processed through salting and smoking.

Another locality that can be put in value by practicing genealogical tourism can be Iecea Mare documentary certified in the form of ad Terram Vche vocatum through a diploma from the 1467 that still has anthropic tourist resources that can contribute to its sustainable development. Are noted the houses of German settlers interesting realized from constructive point of view and some very well preserved. They distinguished through the special architecture of the gables and of frames on the main axis of the street being parallel or perpendicular on the axis. On many gables can be read the owner's names and year of construction but specific from architectural point of view the types of chimneys placed sideways on the roof. Due to special vernacular architecture by setting up a special outdoor museum can be put in value rural folk art and traditional crafts well preserved as many genealogical tourist resources.

The links of Banat Swabians from Lovrin locality documentary certified since 1466, are certified by the multitude of seals of German origin and of the great interest of genealogical tourists for this area, the proof being the large number of messages from the guest book, the desire to resurrection this form of tourism by rediscovering the occupations

regarding the cultivation of technical plants in particular hemp and tobacco, promoting the community's Holidays, specially the kirwai in order to highlighting the folk costume.

From the villages that are best suited for genealogical tourism is also Sandra, locality founded under the name of Alexandria, where the houses of Germans ethnics are illustrative for rural Swabian baroque style, the outside architecture being rich predominantly being the garlands, wreaths and garlands of flowers. This village by its circular market where the church with two towers stands out and can be considered an important rural architectural outdoor monument through the circular layout of the German settler's houses. Ignored by many specialists and unknown for tour operators the gables of these houses may be genealogical cultural tourist objectives, with nothing less than other architectural objectives from the world. Each gable mentions the German name of the man who built the house usually husband and wife and year of construction the most common ornaments being the sunshine, the tributary motives of historicism in eclectic stile but also sculptures placed in niches such as Virgin Mary or Head of Angel. For German gourmet tourism a guesthouse from the area offers to genealogical tourists the Swabian specific products and accommodation at convenient prices.

For genealogical tourism of pilgrimage we intend to be visited the Biled locality documentary certified since 1462, where the colonization of Germans ethnics was made starting with the year 1765 when were built 252 houses, vicarage house and German school, the church being built in 1786. From this locality German ethnics immigrated massively in their origin country during 1956-1996. Besides the contemplation of German rural architecture, the knowledge of roots, traditions and customs in witch the ancestors lived the tourists' eager of genealogical pilgrimage can visit Kalvarien or the mounds existent in the locality and the cemetery where their ancestors sleep their eternal sleep.

Kalvarien is located on a mound of 8 meters a height and with a diameter of 50 meters and has a cross and lateral crosses walled witch remember of the stops of the Saviour Jesus Christ on the way to Golgotha, like those on the Via Dolorosa.

CONCLUSIONS

For sustainable development of the studied area the genealogical tourism for roots discovery bears an important task in the economic and social development of many localities. In order to promote this modern form of cultural tourism, tourism operators will develop tourist packages that highlight the anthropogenic resources represented by the built heritage, ways of living, customs and cultural traditions of German ethnics, transforming the markets from communes in real outdoors sites.

The descendants of emigrants displaced in the origin country through practicing genealogical tourism for knowing the roots or of pilgrimage will be able to know the history of their predecessors, to know some relatives closer or distant, maintaining alive family traditions through language, fact which demonstrates that German ethnics have strong roots in this part of the country and contributed to the socio-economic development of the area in the period when they lived in harmony with the Romanian population.

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