

SOUTH EAST EUROPE
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Caras – Severin County

1st Workshop - of the DONAUREGIONEN+ project
– Introductory and methodology workshop –
15th and 16th July 2009
Senec, Slovak Republic

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Located in the south-west of Romania, part of the West Region with Timiș, Arad and Hunedoara counties.

- Serbian Republic at south-west
- Mehedini County at south-east
- Gorj county at east
- Hunedoara County at north-east
- Timiș County at north-west.

Total surface: 8,514 sq km, which represents 3.6% out of the national territory, situating the county on the third place at country level.


Caras-Severin County has 2 cities (municipalities)- Reșița and Caransebeș - 6 towns – Ahina, Boșca, Băile Herculane, Oțelu Roșu, Moldova Nouă, Oravița – and 69 de communes.

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The climate of the county is temperate continental with Mediterranean influences. The average temperature in winter has higher values than in other zones of the country situated at the same altitudes. The Danube Keys' climate is sub Mediterranean, characterized by an average temperature higher than the rest of the country.

Relief: geographically, Caras-Severin county is a mountainous area (65.4 % of the total surface), but has also large hilly zones (15.5%), hills (10.8%) and fields (7.3%).

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Caras-Severin county has one of the richest river networks, with a length of coded courses of 3273 km.

The point of entry into the country of the river Danube is Bazias, a locality in Caras-Severin.

The Danube represents the south limit of the county on length of 64 km.

The Danube Defile - 134 km - the longest in Europe.



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Protected areas represent a significant part of county's territory: 1800.2 sq km – 21%


62 protected natural areas, including:

4 national parks - 1010.18 sq km

- Semenic - Caras Gorges
- Nerei Keys – Beusnita
- Domogled-Cerna Valley(with areas in Mehedinti and Gorj counties)
- Retezat (with areas in Hunedoara)

1 natural park
Iron Gates (with a total area of 1156.55 sq km, of which in Caras-Severin 747.74 km², and the rest in Mehedinti county)

Natural reserves: 28 inside parks and 29 outside the parks (botanical, zoological, paleontological, geological, mixed forests, scientific, wetlands).





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ABILE NATURALE PROTEJATE JUDEȚUL CARAS-SEVERIN

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In Caras-Severin 9 Sites were declared of Community Importance SCI - totaling an area of 2533.77 sq km and 6 areas of special protection SPA - occupying a total area of 2242.16 ha.

SITII DE IMPORTANTA COMUNITARA IN JUDEȚUL CARAS - SEVERIN **ARI DE PROTECTIE SPECIALA AFRANZETICA IN JUDEȚUL CARAS - SEVERIN**

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Local transport network has 1,942 km from which:

- National roads 558 km
- County roads 883 km
- Communal roads 501km

The percentage of the modernized roads out of the total network is 100% for the national roads, 53% for the county roads, 14% for the communal roads, and the percentage of the hilly and mountain roads is 1,386 km (71.5%) out from the total transport network. The county is crossed by the European route E70.

The air transport

- The Timisoara airport (110 km from Resița) is the most important international airport from the Western Romania and serves as a base for domestic and international flights
- The Caransebes airport (40 km from Resița) for charters.

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Human Resources

The total population of the county is 333,219 inhabitants.

Ethnical structure of the population is represented as follows:

294,051 Romanians (88.2 %); 7,914 Romas (2.4 %); 6,273 Crolians (1.9 %); 6,149 Germans (1.8 %); 6,082 Serbians (1.8 %); 5,824 Hungarians (1.8 %); 3,526 Ukrainians (1.1 %); 2,479 Czechs (0.7 %); 340 Slovaks (0.1 %); others 581.

182,948 people live in the urban area and 150,272 people live in the rural area. The working population is 121,406 people from which 61,728 people employed at the end of August 2005 (2,340 – agriculture, hunting and fishing, 29,674 industry and constructions and 29,714 –services).

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Agriculture

Arable surface represents 47% from the total surface of the county, that is 397,310 ha. 127,113 ha arable; 183,187 ha grass land; 74,516 ha natural fields; 771 ha vineyards; 11,723 ha orchards.

Soil type: predominant there are brown and forest red brown soils, podzolic with PH acid and on small areas black-earth, degraded and alluvial deposit. The soil has a hard texture, the fertile stratification is located at the surface. The actual assortment of cultures is generally reduced at 3 basic sorts –wheat, corn, sun flower, other cultures necessary to the national economy covering the internal consumption.

Zootechnical sector –animal breeding is a tradition for county's people. Unfortunately this sector deals with many challenges because of the lack of productive farms.

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Heavy industry, affected in the last years by the reorganizing and jobs reducing is still represented by some companies with tradition in this sector.

UCM Resița produces water/hydraulic turbine type Pelton, Francis, Kaplan unique, hydraulic generators synchrony unique, hydromantic equipments, electric and Diesel engines, equipments for chemical and metallurgical industry.

TMK, founded in 1771, produces ingots steel, laminate products, rail, iron plate, bandage for rail ways and constructing machine industry, bogies for locomotive, trams, metros, rolling material, metallic structures, hydromechanics equipments.

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Light industry: the ready-made clothes sector had a remarkable evolution, especially after 1996 when the annual value of the exports has risen spectacularly, due to the setting up of many private units of this type.

Food industry has a moderate evolution, most of the new units being specialized in meat processing, fabrication of grist products, of flouring pasta and other floury products. There are also some milk processing units.

Processing of wood and constructing industry developed substantially in last years based on resources already existent at the county level and by the market demand.

Most of the operators activate in the Services sector, engross and detail trade, road transport of passengers and consumer goods, as auxiliary in agriculture sector.

In tourism there are some large operators as SC ARGIROM – Băile Herculane, SC Turist Semenic, as well as others smaller, in touristic areas of the county.

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Tourism: Caras-Severin county, has a remarkable potential, insufficiently developed that could be in the future one of the most important branches of county's economy.

There are five areas with big potential

- **Semenic area** – was created for winter sports, situated at the altitude of 1400 m on Semenice mountains plateau. The distance from Resita city to Semenice is 35 km.
- **Cerna's Valley** – an amazing place part of the National Park Domogled - Valea Cernei. The richness of the Mediterranean fauna and flora, the thermal – mineral waters and Baile Herculane resort make this area one of the top areas in national tourism.
- **Anina Mountains area**, include gorges with wild beauties and also resorts, Marghitas with Buhui and Marghitas lakes, Buhui cave, Minis Gorges and spring and waterfall Bigar
- **Portile de Fier (Iron Gates) area** includes a good part of the most spectacular defile – Danube' Gorges
- **Mic Mountains area** includes the ski resort Muntele Mic, the Tarcu and Godeanu mountains and also the micro zone of Poiana Marului resort



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