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**PROPOSAL FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE PERI-URBAN
AREA OF TIMIȘOARA**

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Abstract: The importance of developing peri-urban areas for tourism lies both in the quality of human interactions (visitor ↔ visitor, visitor ↔ resident, resident ↔ resident) and in the physical appearance of man-made structures and the magnificent beauty of the natural environment. The growth of the tourism industry in urban areas brings substantial employment and investment opportunities to the community, but it also has an impact on the daily lives of many residents who host and entertain numerous visitors each year. The peri-urban area of Timișoara has significant tourism potential that is currently underutilized, and through the development of adequate infrastructure and the implementation of sustainable tourism strategies, it can become an attractive destination for recreation and local tourism. Through this scientific study, we aim to analyze the tourism potential of the peri-urban area of Timișoara and identify sustainable development solutions to capitalize on it. More often than not, the impact of rising visitor numbers on residents is that it erodes their goodwill toward visitors and undermines the social fabric that sustains the city's cohesion. The main challenges facing peri-urban tourism remain the environmental impact of tourism and overtourism.

• **Introduction**

The peri-urban area represents a space of interference between the urban and rural environment, characterized by a pronounced dynamic of territorial and functional transformations.

the analysis of the tourist development directions of the peri-urban area of Timișoara is based on these theoretical foundations, aiming to identify sustainable solutions adapted to the local specifics. The proposed approach aims to integrate modern principles of tourist planning, responsible use of resources and promoting a development model that ensures both tourist attractiveness and long-term environmental protection.

• **Results and discussions**

- The peri-urban area of Timișoara has a significant tourism potential, currently insufficiently exploited, and by developing an adequate infrastructure and implementing sustainable tourism strategies, it can become an attractive destination for recreation and proximity tourism.
- The peri-urban area of Timișoara is notable for its diverse tourism potential, resulting from the combination of natural elements with the anthropogenic influences specific to a space located in the immediate vicinity of a major urban center. This area includes a variety of landscapes – agricultural lands, wetlands, forests, watercourses and protected natural areas – which offer multiple opportunities for the development of recreational, educational and ecological forms of tourism. In the context of accelerated urbanization and increasing pressure on the environment, the responsible use of these

An essential element is the natural areas such as forests, lakes and peri-urban green spaces, of which a representative example is the Green Forest. These areas function as true "green lungs" of the city and offer favorable conditions for outdoor recreational activities, biodiversity conservation and reduction of anthropogenic pressure on the urban environment. In this sense, in addition to the Green Forest which is a peri-urban forest used for recreation, hiking and ecotourism, in the area we can also talk about the natural lake area (Lake Dumbrăvița), which is considered a peri-urban lake ecosystem with potential for bird watching and recreational activities, we can also mention the peri-urban green space that illustrates the connection between the urban and natural environment, but also about the peri-urban arboretum with ecological and educational value, used for scientific and recreational tourism from Bazoș.



Conclusions: The periurban area of Timișoara has significant tourism potential, determined by the diversity of natural and anthropogenic resources, but this is currently insufficiently exploited, requiring an integrated planning and development approach to transform the periurban space into an attractive destination for recreation and proximity tourism.

The development of peri-urban tourism is closely dependent on the modernization of access infrastructure and the implementation of forms of sustainable tourism, such as ecotourism and slow tourism, which can contribute to increasing the quality of urban life and strengthening the functional link between the urban and natural environment.