

Some conclusions of the perception of beneficiaries of european funds for tourism – the case of Romania, North-East Region

Gina-Ionela BUTNARU¹, Clara MINUT²

Abstract. In Romania, after 1989, beginning with the transition to market economy, changes took place, affecting tourism mainly. As a result, people tried to find solutions to revitalize tourism by elaborating development policies and marketing strategies. For the European Union, tourism is a strategic economic activity. In what concerns our country, it committed itself by signing the agreement of adhesion to EU. Therefore, the adhesion can be an impulse for the development of Romanian economic and cultural patrimony.

Key words: North-East Region, Romania, tourism, European funds

JEL Classification: M19, O22, R19, R58

1. Introduction

In the European Union were created four structural funds, one cohesion fund, and funds of complementary type: Regional Development European Fund (RDEF), created in 1975; Social European Fund (SEF), created in 1958 by the Treaty of Rome; European Agricultural Orientation and Guarantee Fund (EAOGF), created in 1962 by the Mutual Agricultural Policy; Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), created in 1984 to replace different separate financial instruments, which had been valid since 1976; Cohesion Fund (CF), created by the Treaty of Maastricht, in 1993. The complementary funds follow the same implementation method as the structural funds, except that these are granted to the candidate countries to the European Union (Moşteanu, 2003, p. 52 – 53). Among these funds are the PHARE, ISPA, and SAPARD Programmes.

In Romania, the Sectoral Operational Programme Increase of Economic Competitiveness (SOP IEC) and Regional Operational Programme (ROP) will be entirely financed by the Regional Development European Fund (RDEF).

Tourism can be an economic chance for Romania only if deep quantitative and qualitative changes are made not only in the specific and general infrastructure, but also in the managerial component. (Bucur-Sabo, 2006, p.9)

¹ Department of Economy and Business Administration, „Al. I. Cuza” University, Bulevardul Carol I, Nr.11, 700506, Iasi, Romania

² Department of Economy and Business Administration, „Al. I. Cuza” University, Bulevardul Carol I, Nr.11, 700506, Iasi, Romania

2. Analysis of statistical indicators in the North-East Region

Starting with the year 2006, in the counties of North-East Region we can notice an increase of tourist accommodation capacity in function in five of the six counties. One cause of this increase can be explained by the high degree of absorption of the European funds in the field of tourism, and, implicitly, by the development of accommodation infrastructure.

For a more detailed situation, the graph no. 1 offers a short presentation of the increase of the number of accommodation places in all six counties of North-East Region. Consequently, the most significant increase was registered in the counties of Iași, Neamț and Suceava, which have a high tourist potential, and which attracted the highest number of European funds. At the same time, the counties Botoșani and Vaslui, though they try to get out from the unfavourable situation they are at present, they strongly deepen the differences among counties, realising a low progress according to the accommodation capacity in function. In 2011, the tourist accommodation capacity highly developed in Suceava County, where more than 175,979 accommodation places in the tourist accommodation units were registered as compared to the previous year.

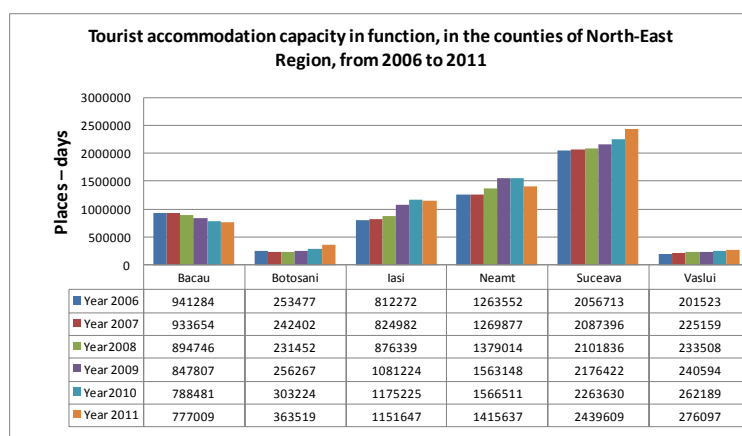


Figure 1 Graphical representation of tourist accommodation capacity in function, in counties of the North-East Region, from 2006 to 2011

Data source: www.insse.ro, Official site of The National Statistics Institute

Taking into account the fact that in the North-East Region most of the financing were granted for the construction or renovation of tourist B&B and agritourist households, we chose these two forms of accommodation in order to emphasise the way in which these financing operations influenced tourists' arrivals and check-ins in these accommodation units from 2006 to 2011, the period previous to financing and during the actual implementation of the projects.

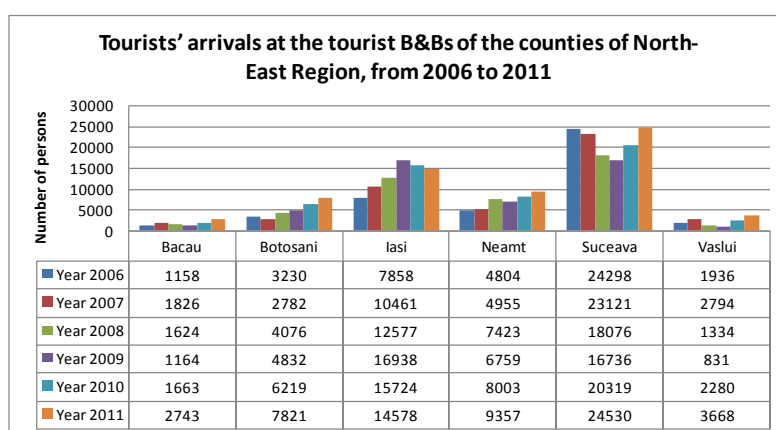


Figure 2 Graphical representation of tourists' arrivals in the tourist B & Bs in the counties of North-East Region, from 2006 to 2011

Data source: www.insse.ro, Official site of The National Statistics Institute

As we can notice from the graph no. 3, tourists' check-ins at the tourist B&Bs registered major fluctuations in Suceava County, with 15,008 more in 2011 as compared to 2006, continuing the ascending trend of the tourism sector in this county. As compared to the period previous to obtaining European financing, we notice in 2011 a significant increase of the number of check-ins in the counties with a lower tourist potential, as Vaslui, Bacău and Botoșani.

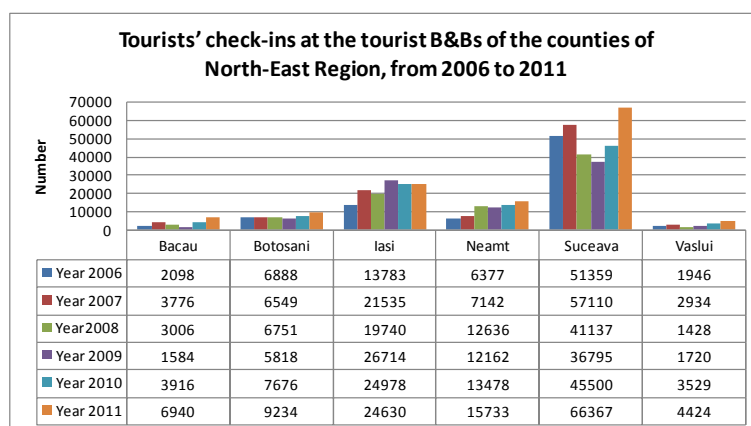


Figure 3 Graphical representation of tourists' check-ins at the tourist B & Bs of the counties of the North-East Region, from 2006 to 2011

Data source: www.insse.ro, Official site of The National Statistics Institute

Analysing the graph no. 4, we can notice that the highest number of tourists' arrivals at the agritourist households of the counties of North-East Region are registered in Neamț County, which is leading with a number of 45,361 arrivals in 2011, double as compared to the year 2006. Furthermore, the number of tourists' arrivals at the agritourist households of Suceava County registered in 2011 an impressive increase (with 13,358 more arrivals in 2011, as compared to 2006),

compared with the period previous to obtaining financing by The Regional Operational Programme POR 2007-2013. At the other side are the counties Botoşani and Bacău, which registered the lowest number of arrivals in 2011.

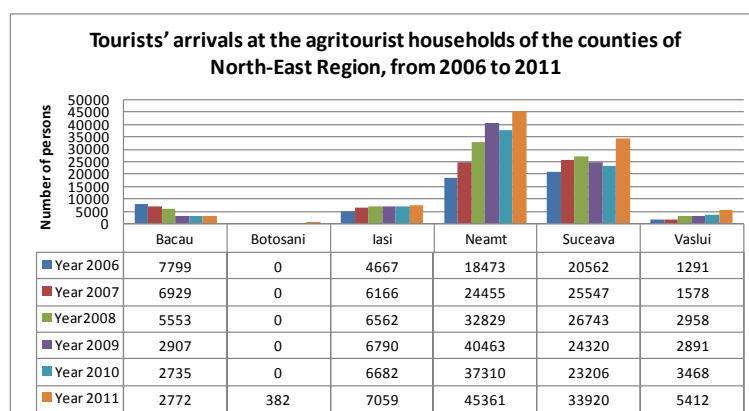


Figure 4 Graphical representation of tourists' arrivals at the agritourist households of the counties of North-East Region, from 2006 to 2011

Data source: www.insse.ro, Official site of The National Statistics Institute

We notice from the graph no. 5 that the number of tourists' check-ins at the agritourist B&Bs of Neamţ County maintained on an ascending trend from 2006 up to present. In 2011, the number of check-ins increased by 40% as compared with 2006. At the same time, in Suceava County registered a spectacular increase of the number of check-ins at the agritourist households in 2011, 57% more than in 2006.

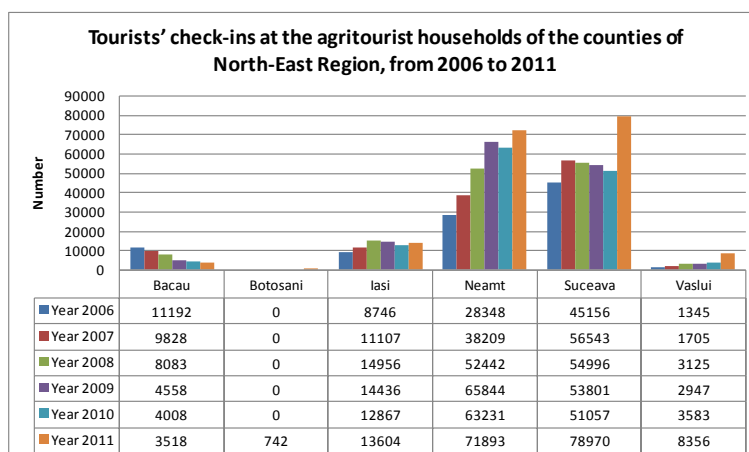


Figure 5 Graphical representation of the tourists' check-ins at the agritourist households of the counties of North-East Region, from 2006 to 2011

Data source: www.insse.ro, Official site of The National Statistics Institute

In conclusion, the number of places of the accommodation units increased at a high speed in five of the six counties from 2006 to 2011, which could be explained by the high degree of absorption of the European funds in the field of tourism. Also, the number of arrivals or check-ins increased mostly in 2011 as a result of numerous promotion campaigns of tourist objectives in Romania, and especially in the North-East Region, as well as the improvement of infrastructure of tourist accommodation.

3. SWOT analysis of the North-East Region

SWOT analysis realises development scenarios based on the analysis of all possible alternatives, and has the purpose to identify strengths and weaknesses specific to the region, as well as opportunities and threats induced by the external environment of the region. This analysis has the advantage of a quick survey of the key-points of a discussion, and, implicitly, of the directions of action in order to find solutions.

Table 1 SWOT analysis of the North-East Region

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Geographical position – attractive natural landscape; very diverse relief– a special natural area; diverse flora and fauna. -Possibility to practice several types of tourism all over the year (in all the seasons). - The region benefits from the presence of numerous historical monuments of national and international importance (UNESCO). - In the North-East Region there is the highest number of museums and public collections – 9 units of national importance are concentrated in Iași. - Diversified cultural offer: festivals, exhibitions, customs and traditions. - Diversity of national parks and of protected natural areas (national natural parks and reservations, included in the European reservation Natura 2000) – 4.96% of the total surface of protected area of Romania. - Existence of mineral springs in the spas, important both from a quantitative and qualitative point of view. - Low pollution in most of the rural areas. - Diversity of ecological products. - Three university centres with basic infrastructure in the field of research, development and innovation in Iași, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of modern roads infrastructure, as well as inappropriate connections by air. (Neamț County does not have an airport, though it is on top of the most visited counties of North-East Region). - Treatment facilities of some spas have a high degree of wear and they are not adapted to the European standards. - Low level of cooperation between air transport operators and tourism agencies – absence of “all inclusive” packages. - Low accessibility West-East due to the lack of a European corridor Transilvania – Moldova. - Low degree of tourist occupation in relation with the existent accommodation capacity. - High rate of unemployment in the area (12.3% in Vaslui county). - Insufficient measures taken for the maintenance of historical and cultural monuments.

Suceava and Bacău. - Three international airports in Iași, Bacău and Suceava.	
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration/renovation/rehabilitation of tourist objectives of the cultural-historical patrimony, and their tourist capitalisation. - High international interest in cultural tourism, agritourism, and rural, adventure tourism. - Very good exploitation perspectives of the mountain areas all over the year by hiking, trekking, climbing, horse riding, extreme sports, ski. - Tourism financing opportunities by European funds. - Implementation of tourist infrastructure projects by the local public administration. - Capital infusion from the people working abroad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low preoccupation in the development of small craftsmen and in the distribution network of specific handmade products. - Lack of collaboration among regions for tourism development. - Weak competitiveness of the profile companies in the region with the ones in the EU member states. - Strong competition in tourist external destinations at similar prices and superior conditions. - Degradation of rural architectural patrimony by depopulation of rural localities and communities. - Increase of the degree of poverty of the population of the region. - Continuous migration process of qualified labour.

4. Results of the research

4.1. Research methodology

Research aspect: *Which is the perception of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region of Romania?*

This research has the **main purpose** to learn the perception of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region.

The **objectives** of the research subordinated to the purpose mentioned above are as follows:

O.1. Obtaining the necessary data, using the questionnaire as data collection instrument, applied to the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region.

O.2. The analysis concerning the attitude of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region as compared to the services of The North-East Regional Development Agency (NE RDA).

The research **hypotheses** which we will verify are as follows:

H1: By the implication in the implementation of tourism projects, The North-East Regional Development Agency highly contributed to the development of tourism in the North-East Region, with a contracting degree of 74.4% of the allocations of the Regional Development European Fund in the North-East Region.

H2: *Up to present, The North-East Regional Development Agency has fulfilled its attributions as an Intermediate Organism for the Operational Regional Programme 2007 - 2013.*

H3: *The degree of satisfaction that the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region have with the services of The North-East Regional Development Agency is high.*

4.2. Considerations concerning the elaboration of the questionnaire applied to the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region

The **research method** is quantitative, and the research technique that was used was the enquiry based on questionnaire (*Strategii si metode de cercetare psihologică*, Lector Sandina Ilie <http://portal.fcaa.uaic.ro/>, accessed on the 11th of June, 2012).

Justification of the research—This research is justified by the interest presented by the subject investigated, in the context of obtaining European financing in the field of tourism in the period 2007-2013.

Research technique—Enquiry based on questionnaire.

Justification of the method—The method of enquiry involves the collection of information about members of the target population contained in a representative sample.

Advantages of the method:

- The persons realising the enquiry can easier convince the persons approached to fill the questionnaire;
- The interview operators can offer further information to the subjects, helping them to formulate precise answers;
- It is easy to realise;
- It does not involve high costs.

Disadvantages of the method:

- The interview operators can influence the answers by the attitude towards the subjects (of approval or rejection);
- The answering rate is quite low;
- The time pressure is high, therefore long and complex questionnaires cannot be administered.

The realisation of the questionnaire is a very important activity for the future development of the enquiry based on questionnaire.

From the point of view of the structure, the questionnaire applied to the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region starts with an introduction mentioning the purpose of the questionnaire, followed by the questions of the enquiry based on questionnaire.

The formulation of the question had in view the following elements:

- To refer to a single aspect;
- To be intelligible;
- Not to influence the answering subject.

The validation of the questions – according to the three criteria:

- Comprehension—technical words are not used;
- Capability—the filter questions assure the operators that the subjects can answer the questions of the questionnaire;
- Honesty—is assured by mentioning the confidentiality of the answers, and the fact that identification data about the subjects are not asked.

Arranging and grouping the questions

The questionnaire comprises nine questions, and it is structured on three parts:

I. Introductory question (question 1)

Question no. 1. We chose to use a binary scale for this filter question with the purpose to establish if the subject is capable to provide the information desired. If the answer is affirmative, the subject will be able to continue to fill the questionnaire, and if the answer is negative, the poll will end, because if the subjects are not the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism, they cannot offer the information we need.

II. The study of the perceptions of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region concerning the implications of NE RDA in the development of Romanian tourism (questions no. 2 - 7)

Question no. 2 contains the Likert scale, and it was applied with the purpose to learn the perceptions of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region concerning the implications of NE RDA in the development of Romanian tourism, and if NE RDA fulfilled its attributions as an Intermediate Organism for ROP.

Question no. 3 requires the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region to state what they appreciate at NE RDA, and which is the first aspect taken into consideration when they declare their degree of satisfaction concerning the implications of this agency in the development of Romanian tourism.

Question no. 4 asks the opinion of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region concerning the implications of NE RDA in regional and national tourism.

Question no. 5. The purpose of this question is to find out if the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism were unsatisfied with the services of NE RDA.

Question no. 6 contains a Likert scale, and is formulated with the purpose to determine the global satisfaction of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism with the services of NE RDA.

Question no. 7 tries to find out if the beneficiaries are willing to collaborate with NE RDA for a future project.

III. Questions of characterisation (questions no. 8-9)

Question no. 8 is formulated with the purpose to find out the exact name of the institution or organisation in order to get the confirmation that we applied where it was necessary.

Question no. 9 has the purpose to find out the beneficiary's area of activity. The question contains a nominal scale with the purpose to find out the dominant number of the institutions that benefited / are benefiting from European funds for tourism, either public or private.

The format of the questionnaire – three A4 pages;

The time necessary to fill a questionnaire – approximately 5 minutes.

4.3. Aspects concerning the structure of the sample under research

The sampling technique. The selection of the subjects who will be invited to answer the questions of the poll can be realised either randomly, or purposefully (based on rules established in advance). In the present case, we decided to choose the method of controlled, logical sampling, as we interviewed only the persons related to the subject of the enquiry, that are the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region.

Target population:the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Regionhaving theNorth-EastRegional Development Agency as Intermediate Organism.

Sampling unit – the beneficiary of European funds for tourism in the North-East Regionhaving the North-EastRegional Development Agency as Intermediate Organism.

In the present research we used the questionnaire as a data collection instrument, on a sample of 13of 33beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region.

Place of data collection:collecting the data from the subjects in the counties Botoşani, Vaslui, Bacău, Suceava, Neamţ was realised by sending the questionnaireby e-mail.The data collection from the beneficiaries of IaşiCounty was realised by the intercepted enquiry.

Datacollectionwas developed between 30th of January and 2nd of March 2012.

4.4. Testing the research hypotheses

Testing a statistical hypothesis involves going through some stages, and solving the problems implied,as follows:

1. *The hypotheses are formulated, according to the subject under discussion.*
2. *A statistical test is chosen, according to the distribution of statistics selection.*
3. *A significance threshold α is chosen for the test.*
4. *The decision rules are established, defining the regions “of acceptance” and “of rejection” of hypothesis H_0 .*
5. *The value of the test statistics is calculated, using the data registered by the enquiry poll.*
6. *The calculated value of the test statistics is compared with the theoretical value.*
7. *The decision of rejecting or not rejecting the admitted hypothesis is taken.*

The hypothesis we wish to test is called **nullhypothesis**,and is symbolically named H_0 . By thenull hypothesis, H_0 , we mainly admit that there is no difference between the values compared. The null hypothesis H_0 is the hypothesiswe want to discredit.

$H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2$ (Sig. > α)

The hypothesiswe wish to test in opposition with the null hypothesis is called **alternativehypothesis**,symbolically named H_1 . The alternative is the hypothesis which will be accepted if by the rule of decision the null hypothesis is rejected. Hypothesis H_1 isthe hypothesiswe want to prove it is true.

$H_1: \mu_1 \neq \mu_2$ (Sig. < α)

All the results obtained after the application of the questionnaireswere processed with the help of the programme SPSS,alternative 13.0.

H1:*By the implication in the implementation of tourism projects, The North-EastRegional Development Agency highly contributed to the development of tourism in the North-East Region, with a contracting degree of 74.4% of the allocations of the Regional Development European Fund in the North-East Region.* It is checked if there are significant differences between the mean value allocated to the North-East Region, and the meanvalue contracted in the North-East Region. The test is realised with the help of “*One-Sample T Test*”.

Interpretation of the results. The outputs, *One-Sample Statistics* and *One-Sample T Test*for the variable “proportion of mean value contracted from the meanvalue allocated” presents: the observedmeanvalue equal to 92.35%; the specified value

equal to 74.4%; the difference between the observed value and the hypothetical value of 17.95%.

Table 2 “One-Sample Statistics” report for hypothesis *H1*

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
prop	2	92.3599	.66184	.46799

Table 3 “One-Sample Test” report for hypothesis *H1*

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 74.4				95% Confidence interval of the Difference	
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
prop	38.377	1	.017	17.95988	12.0135	23.9062

The value of the degree of significance *Sig.* (probability) equal to 0.017 is lower than the value 0.05, considered in the *Confidence interval*, which shows that there is a significant difference between the observed mean value and the specified one, or, more precisely, the implementation of the projects by NE RDA influenced significantly the development of tourism in the North-East Region. Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected.

H2: *Up to present, The North-East Regional Development Agency has fulfilled its attributions as an Intermediate Organism for the Operational Regional Programme 2007 – 2013.*

It is checked if there are significant differences between the mean value of the answers obtained at question no. 4 of the questionnaire concerning the perception of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region of the implications of the North-East Regional Development Agency in the development of Romanian tourism, and the mean value of the total specified grading. The test is realised with the help of “One-Sample T Test”.

Interpretation of the results. The outputs, *One-Sample Statistics* and *One-Sample T Test* for the variable “mean value of the answers obtained at question no. 4 of the questionnaire” presents: the observed mean value equal to 22.84; the specified value equal to 39; the difference between the observed value and the hypothetical value of -16.15.

Table4 “One-Sample Statistics” report for hypothesis **H2****One-Sample Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
pnctj_tot_ip2	13	22.8462	2.19265	.60813

Table5 “One-Sample Test” report for hypothesis **H2****One-Sample Test**

	Test Value = 39					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
pnctj_tot_ip2	-26.563	12	.000	-16.15385	-17.4788	-14.8288

The value of the degree of significance *Sig.* (probability) equal to 0.000 is lower than the value 0.05, considered in the *Confidence interval*, which shows that there are significant differences between the observed mean value and the specified one, which proves that, according to the subjects, The North-East Regional Development Agency has fulfilled up to present its attributions as an Intermediate Organism for the Operational Programme 2007 – 2013.

Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected.

H3: *The degree of satisfaction that the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region have with the services of the North-East Regional Development Agency is high.*

It is checked if there are significant differences between the mean value of the answers obtained at question no. 3 of the questionnaire concerning the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region with the services offered by the North-East Regional Development Agency, and the mean value of the total specified grading. The test is realised with the help of “*One-Sample T Test*”.

Interpretation of the results. The outputs, *One-Sample Statistics* and *One-Sample T Test* for the variable “mean value of the answers obtained at question no.3 of the questionnaire” presents: the observed mean value equal to 36.15; the specified value equal to 39; the difference between the observed value and the hypothetical value of -2.84.

Table6 “One-Sample Statistics” report for hypothesis **H3**

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
pnctj_tot_ip3	13	36.1538	3.64797	1.01177

Table 7 "One-Sample Test" report for hypothesis H3

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 39				95% Confidence interval of the Difference	
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
pnctj_tot_ip3	-2.813	12	.016	-2.84615	-5.0506	-.6417

The value of the degree of significance *Sig.* (probability) equal to 0.016 is lower than the value 0.05, considered in the *Confidence interval*, which shows that there are significant differences between the observed mean value and the specified one. Therefore, the degree of satisfaction of the beneficiaries with the services of the North-East Regional Development Agency is high. Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected.

In the "One-Sample Statistics" report are presented:

- **N**—the size of the sample (number of answers from the sample— 13);
- **Mean**—average of the sample;
- **Std. Deviation** – standard deviation;
- **Std. Error Mean**—standard error of the mean.

In the "One-Sample Test" output are presented:

- **Test Value**—the value with which the mean of the sample was compared;
- **T**—the result of the Student statistics;
- **Sig.**—probability;
- **Mean Difference**— difference between the mean of the sample and the tested value;
- **95% Confidence interval of the Difference**—the confidence interval of the Mean Difference value with lower limit (Lower) and upper limit (Upper).

As a result of testing the three research hypotheses, we can conclude the following:

- The contribution of the North-East Regional Development Agency to the development of tourism in the North-East Region is significant, which is demonstrated by the high degree of contracting funds.
- The 13 beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region consider that up to present, NE RDA has fulfilled its obligations as an Intermediate Organism for the Operational Regional Programme 2007- 2013.
- The degree of satisfaction of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region with the services of NE RDA is high.

5. Conclusions, limits, perspectives of the research

The subject of this paper is of great interest in the context in which the European Union gave Romania a chance to revitalise the tourism industry by the implementation of regional development programmes. The presence of tourism among the priority domains within the Operational Regional Programme 2007-2013 financed by RDEF creates the premises of development of this field, and of capitalisation of the potential in the region, with the help of European financing. Tourism development can give an impulse to other domains, consequently developing the North-East Region.

As a result of this research, we can conclude that The North-East Regional Development Agency contributed significantly to the development of national tourism, especially of the tourism from the North-East Region, which is demonstrated by the high degree of contracting European funds for regional development. The period of time from 2007 to 2011 brought changes in the tourism of North-East Region in what concerns the capacity of accommodation, the number of tourists' arrivals and check-ins, which registered higher values as compared to the previous period of the Operational Regional Programme 2007-2013.

From this analysis resulted that the main beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region were local public administrations, county councils, city halls, and also private beneficiaries.

According to the answers received, the subjects consider that the North-East Regional Development Agency fulfilled its tasks as an Intermediate Organism for the Operational Regional Programme 2007 – 2013.

As a result of the answers received from the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region, we conclude that their degree of satisfaction with the services of the North-East Regional Development Agency is high, and that the favourable experience determined 46% of the subjects to declare that they intended, or that it was possible for them to collaborate with NE RDA for a future project.

Limits of the research. In what concerns the limits of this research, we can present the following aspects:

- Regarding the empiric study realised, the limits of the research based on questionnaire are inherent, starting from the number of interviewed persons and ending with the answers obtained.
- Difficulties in obtaining information, impossibility to contact some beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region.

Perspectives of the research. Taking into account the limits of the research, in what concerns the perspectives of the research, the following directions of research can be identified:

- A new analysis based on questionnaire, in order to enlarge the sample area, where it would be useful to obtain the opinion of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the other Development Regions of Romania, at the closing of the Operational Regional Programme 2007-2013.
- Also, based on the analysis of the statistical indicators in tourism, a general perspective can be obtained over the way in which the absorption of European funds for tourism did or did not influence the number of tourists' arrivals and check-ins during the whole period of project development (2007-2013).

Acknowledgement

This work was supported from the European Social Fund through Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013, project number POSDRU/1.5/S/ 59184 „Performance and excellence in postdoctoral research in Romanian economics science domain”.

6. Referances

- Avrămescu, T. C. (2008). *Turism, guvernare și dezvoltare durabilă*, Universitară, București
- Avrămescu, T. C. (2005). *Direcțiile implicării autorităților publice centrale și locale în dezvoltarea turismului durabil*, Doctor degree thesis, ASE
- Buruiană, Andreea, I. (2009). *Analiza statistică a dezvoltării regionale din România*, PIM, Iași
- Butnaru, Gina, Ionela (2009). *Strategii manageriale pentru asigurarea calității produselor și serviciilor turistice*, Tehnopress, Iași
- Covășianu, A. (2011). *Regiunile de dezvoltare în România europeană. Între deziderat politic și realitate teritorială*, Doctor degree thesis, Faculty of Geography and Geology, Iași
- Drosu, Ș. D., Găinușă, Nicolae, Raluca (2011). *Fondurile structurale ale Uniunii Europene*, Universul Juridic, București
- Dumitrică, C. D. (2012). *Aplicarea principiilor dezvoltării regionale în România*, Doctor degree thesis, București
- Ionescu, Claudia, Toderăș, N. (2007). *Politica de dezvoltare regională*, Tritonic, București
- Iuhaș, V. (2004). *Dezvoltarea economică regională*, Emia, Deva
- Jaba, Elisabeta, Grama, Ana (2004). *Analiza statistică cu SPSS sub Windows*, Polirom, Iași
- Jula, D. (2002). *Strategia și politica de dezvoltare regională a României*, Estfalia, București
- Mateoc, Sîrb, Nicoleta (coord.) (2010). *Dezvoltare regională și rurală. Evoluție și tendințe*, Mirton, Timișoara
- Mihăilă, Doina (2009). *Implicații ale aplicării legislației europene asupra managementului dezvoltării regionale*, Doctor degree thesis, Galați
- Moșteanu, Narcisa, R. (2003). *Finanțarea dezvoltării regionale în România*, Economică, București
- Niculescu, G., Rus, Felicia (2010). *Turismul în regiunile de dezvoltare ale României*, Academica Brâncuși, Târgu-Jiu
- Pascariu, G. (2006). *Analiză regională și urbană*, University of Architecture and Urbanism „Ion Mincu”, București
- Pop, V. (coord.) (2006). *Management, economie și dezvoltare regională durabilă*, Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca
- Pușcașu, V. (2000). *Dezvoltarea regională*, Economică, București
- Roșca, E. (coord.) (2006). *Dezvoltare regională în contextul integrării în UE*, Economică, București
- Roșca, E. (coord.) (2005). *Teorie și practică în dezvoltarea regională*, Economică, București
- Sharpley, R., Telfer D. J. (2004). *Tourism and development: concepts and issues*, Channel View Publications, Great Britain
- Ungureanu, G., Mateoc, Sîrb, Nicoleta (2009). *Dezvoltare regională și rurală*, Tipo Moldova, Iași

A. Legislation

Law no. 215/2004 concerning regional development in Romania, Official Monitor 577/2004

Regulation of organisation and functioning of the North-East Regional Development Council, published in Official Monitor 987/27 Oct. 2004

Romania's Parliament, Chamber of Deputies, Lawno. 151/1998 concerning the regional development in Romania and the regime of unfavoured areas, Regia Autonomă Publishing House, București, 1999

B. Articles and publications

*** (2011), REGIO Magazine – Operational Regional Programme

*** (2010), OECD Tourism Trends and Policies, OECD Publishing, Organisation for Cooperation and Economic Development

*** (2011), Butnaru Gina-ionela, Timu Florina-iuliana, *European Union and Development of Romanian Tourism*, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University

*** (2003), Casey J. Dawkins, *Regional Development Theory: Conceptual Foundations, Classic Works, and Recent Developments*, Journal of Planning Literature, <http://jpl.sagepub.com/content/18/2/131>, DOI: 10.1177/0885412203254706

*** (2011), Nuță Florian Marcel, *Public environmental spending and the economic growth in Romania*, EuroEconomica, Vol 29, No 3 <http://www.journals.univ-danubius.ro/index.php/euroeconomica/article/view/986/822>

*** (2009), Scutariu Adrian Liviu, Năstase Carmen, Popescu Mihai, *Tourist Activity in North-Eastern Romania from the Regional Development Perspective*, "Ștefan cel Mare" University, Suceava

C. Internet sources

*** http://www.adrnordest.ro/index.php?page=PROGRAMMES_PRESENTATION, accessed on the 30th of January, 2012

*** <http://www.adrnordest.ro>, Official site of The North-East Regional Development Agency, accessed between 30th of January, 2012 and 10th of June, 2012

*** <http://www.funds-structurale.ro>

Plan for North-East Regional Development 2007-2013, accessed between 2nd of February, 2012 and 10th of June, 2012

*** http://www.ier.ro/documente/formare/Politica_regionala.pdf

Official site of the European Institute of Romania, Regional development policy, series Micro-monographs – European Policies, accessed on the 2nd of February, 2012.

*** <http://www.insse.ro>, Official site of the National Institute of Statistics, accessed between 30th of January, 2012 and 10th of June, 2012

*** <http://www.inforegio.ro> accessed between 30th of January, 2012 and 10th of June, 2012

*** http://www.inforegionordest.ro/documente/adrnordest/buletin/pdr_nord_est_2007_2013.pdf

*** <http://www.mdrl.ro/index.php?p=205>, site of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism

*** <http://www.mdrt.ro>, official site of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, accessed between 30th of January, 2012 and 10th of June, 2012

***<http://www.mmuncii.ro/>, official site of the Ministry of Work, Family and Social Protection, accessed between 2nd of February, 2012 and 10th of June, 2012

Appendix

I. List of the beneficiaries of European funds for tourism in the North-East Region (Axis 5, Fields 5.1 and 5.2).

Field	County	Stage of implementation	Title of the project	Name of the beneficiary of the project	Type of beneficiary	Financial non-reimbursable assistance (RON)
5.1	SV	In implementation	Rehabilitation of Suceava Fortress and of its protective area	Suceava County	APL	41.032.113
5.1	SV	In implementation	Repairing, rehabilitation and modernisation of patrimony objective "Art Museum Ion Irimescu" of Fălticeni Municipality	Fălticeni Municipality	APL	4.516.877
5.1	SV	In implementation	Restoration and preservation of the cultural patrimony and modernisation of related infrastructure at the Monastery of Moldovița, Suceava County	Monastery of Moldovița	APL	5.693.102
5.1	SV	In implementation	Restoration and preservation of the cultural patrimony and modernisation of related infrastructure at the Monastery of Dragomirna, Suceava County	Monastery of Dragomirna	APL	20.600.154
5.1	SV	In implementation	Restoration and preservation of the cultural patrimony and modernisation of related infrastructure at the Monastery of Sucevița, Suceava County	Monastery of Sucevița	APL	5.193.314
5.1	BT	In implementation	Restoration and lasting capitalisation of the cultural patrimony, as well as creation/modernisation of related infrastructures of the area Ventura House of Botoșani Municipality in order to arrange the Ethnographic Museum of Botoșani County	Botoșani County	APL	9.712.593
5.1	NT	In implementation	Restoration and capitalisation of the tourist and cultural area "Curtea Domnească" of Piatra Neamț – by rehabilitation, endowment and capitalisation of the patrimony sites and buildings: Ethnographic Museum, Art Museum, Theatre of the Youth, Stephen the Great's Tower	Piatra Neamț Municipality	APL	23.175.243

5.1	IS	In implementation	Rehabilitation and tourist integration of the historical monument ensemble “St. Sava”, Iași	Parish “St. Sava”	APL	15.614.930
5.1	IS	In implementation	Rehabilitation and tourist development of the historical monument Banu Church, Iași	Parish “Duminica tuturor sfinților” – Banu, Iași	APL	8.465.905
5.1	IS	In implementation	Tourist capitalisation of the metropolitan ensemble of Iași	Metropolitan Church of Moldova and Bucovina	APL	43.668.202
5.1	VS	In implementation	Rehabilitation of the historical centre of Bârlad Municipality	Vaslui County	APL	14.573.186
5.1	VS	In implementation	Historical monument ensemble of the Church “Tăierea capului Sfântului Ioan Botezătorul” and archaeological site in the area of rulers’ courts – Vaslui. Restoration, consolidation and tourist capitalisation.	Parish “Sf. Ioan II”	APL	8.793.458
5.2	SV	In implementation	Modernisation, extension of Alpin Hotel – standard of elegance and refinement	SC MERIDIAN TURISM SA	S.C.	2.194.927
5.2	SV	In implementation	Increasing the quality of tourist services of the B&B “Leagănul Bucovinei” by extension and modernisation of infrastructure of tourist accommodation	SC Leagănul Bucovinei SRL	S.C.	1.696.888
5.2	SV	In implementation	Modernisation of tourist and recreational services by building a SPA centre and club at the B&B “Șandru”, Câmpulung Moldovenesc	SC Rodalpin Impex SRL	S.C.	1.781.004
5.2	SV	In implementation	Extension and modernisation of tourist B&B “El Quatro” Voroneț	SC ELSACO INTERNATIONAL SRL	S.C.	3.740.027
5.2	SV	In implementation	Recreational complex Lunca Dornelor	Vatra Dornei Municipality	APL	13.455.617
5.2	SV	Accomplished contract	Winter mountain park Dealu Negri, Vatra Dornei	SC Telescaun Negrești SRL	S.C.	1.886.656
5.2	BT	In implementation	Improvement of tourist product by the extension and modernisation of “Belvedere” 3* Hotel	SC Belvedere SRL	S.C.	7.049.089
5.2	BT	In implementation	Regional recreational tourist and sports park “Cornișa” Botoșani	Botoșani Municipality	APL	33.431.938
5.2	BT	Accomplished contract	Extension and modernisation of B&B and restaurant	SC Splendid SRL	S.C.	2.540.854
5.2	NT	In implementation	Extension of Mariko INN Complex	SC Nemase Comprod SRL	S.C.	4.168.822
5.2	NT	In implementation	ROCOM – Role of Central Hotel – innovative	SC RO COM Central SA	S.C.	7.943.351

			concept in the modernisation of tourism infrastructure of Neamţ County			
5.2	NT	In implementation	Modernisation and extension of Roman Hotel	SC Turoag SA	S.C.	4.943.242
5.2	NT	In implementation	Development of tourist infrastructure on Cozla Mountain, Piatra Neamţ Municipality	Piatra Neamţ Municipality	APL	23.282.449
5.2	NT	In implementation	Modernisation of accommodation structure, extension of front-desk and modernisation of the restaurant, Doina Hotel, Târgu Neamţ	SC Romeo CO & D SRL	S.C.	3.482.750
5.2	NT	Accomplished contract	INTURIS – important component of modernisation of regional infrastructure of historical tourism in Neamţ county – Modernisation and extension “Casa Arcaşului” Motel of Târgu Neamţ	Supercoop – cooperative company Târgu Neamţ	S.C.	1.461.024
5.2	IS	In implementation	“Royal” Recreational Centre	SC Gemada Serv SRL	S.C.	45.544.000
5.2	IS	In implementation	Extension of building and accommodation area on a private land, building a private parking lot	SC Auto-Gas SRL	S.C.	8.421.165
5.2	IS	In implementation	“Circic” recreational area	Iaşi Municipality	APL	17.653.387
5.2	IS	In implementation	SPASIA –recreational centre and spa	SC Valgos SRL	S.C.	43.813.117
5.2	BC	In implementation	Modernisation and extension of Dumbrava Hotel of Bacău Municipality	SC Agroindustrială SA	S.C.	3.593.771
5.2	BC	In implementation	Ski Park Slănic Moldova	Bacău County	APL	8.687.971

Data sources: www.mdr.ro,
Official site of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism