

## **CYCLE TOURISM IN OLT COUNTY, ROMANIA. (RE)DISCOVERING POTENTIAL OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY FOR TOURISM**

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### **Rezumat**

Olt is one of the counties of Romania, which hardly stands out in terms of tourism. Unlike the counties which have an advantageous natural environment, either mountaneous or sea-like, Olt county has no landscape with great tourism potential. However, the wavy morphology, although low altitude, favors the development of cycle tourism. Accordingly, the research took into account the historical and geographical outline goals with tourism potential and the enhancement of their economic value in the form of bicycle trails. The methodology employed in this study involved identifying historical and geographical objectives of national importance, structuring and grouping them into 4 categories of mixed routes dedicated to cyclists. Previous steps were followed by field research in which some technical data were gathered (time, distance, total ascent etc.), and finally a critical analysis of cycle routes was elaborated. The research outcomes showed that cycle tourism is a real opportunity for Olt county's economy thanks to the number and value of tourism potential targets. But, at this stage, the lack of infrastructure, promotion and the small number of accommodation units makes it difficult to organize cycle tourism, and the lack of cycle paths endanger the safety of cycle tourists.

**Cuvinte cheie:** cycle tourism, Olt county, tourism potential, natural environment, historical monuments.

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