

**RURENER**

Network of small RURal communities for ENERgetic-neutrality



# SLANIC MOLDOVA

RURENER Case Study – Abstract

**September 2009**

## 1. Geographical position

Slănic Moldova town is situated in the south-western part of Bacău county, at an altitude of 530m, on the eastern side of the Oriental Carpathians, more exactly in Nemira mountains, which are part of the Trotuș-Oituz mountain chain. The place is set along Slanic River and it is 12 km long, being located in the gorge dug by this river in Oituz Mountains.

The town has about 5430 inhabitants and has a surface of 114.13 km<sup>2</sup>, being situated 86 km from Bacău City.

## 2. Natural Environment

**Topographic data.** Slănic Moldova has a surface of 11406 ha, among which 358.58 ha are inside the city, while the rest is covered with forests.

**Weather.** Due to its layout, in a deep depression, on the Eastern side of the Oriental Carpathians, Slănic Moldova has a transition climate, among that of the hills and that of the mountains, with not very hot summers (17,8°C in July) and mild winters (the average temperature is -4,2°C in January). The orientation of Slănic Valley, from south-west to north-east, as well as its opening in the area where the resort developed, brings to the town of Slănic Moldova many sunny hours in a day. As a consequence, Slănic Moldova has a better climate than other famous resorts. The town benefits of high percentage of calm days (around 290 days in a year), the wind having, in general, a speed up to 2 m/sec and low frequency.

Through his climate parameters (pure, tonic and stimulating air, rich in negative ions, due to the circulation of the masses of air purified by the forests), the resort benefits of a relaxing, tonifying, sedative climate. All these confer to Slănic Moldova the character of a climateric resort.

**Hidrography.** From this point of view, the territory of Slănic Moldova is situated into the hollow of Slanic river, with a length of 20 km, that crosses the town from west to east, this course being the main feeder of the river Trotuș. River Slănic gathers its waters from 12 springs on the mountain Șandru Mare. The main river course is the river Bicaz. The local feeders of Bicaz are Secu, Florea, Neagra și Chișirig.

**Flora and fauna.** Concerning the vegetation, in Slănic Moldova resort there is a predominance of mixed forests (coniferous and beech forests). The undergrowth layers is not so abundant, but the grazing land and the goldilocks are well developed. The richness in beech wood is due both to the climate and to the fact that the pine-tree forests have been cut. In the wet valleys, the pine tree grew at low altitudes. Therefore, the area of Slănic offers examples of inversion of the storeys of vegetation. In the spring, until the leaves grow, the beech wood forests are full of ryegrass. In the rest of the year, only the large openings keep the multi-colored flowers, these being a strong attraction point for the tourists.

The fauna is that specific for the mountain forests: bears, wolves, foxes, wild boars, and squirrels. Above 700 m altitude, climbing to the sub-alpine area, we can meet the lynx, which is protected by law. The deer and the aurochs, once living on this land (until the first world war) have disappeared. The reservation at Scutaru (Mănăstirea Cașin) keeps the last individuals of deer, trying to repopulate the forests. As birds, we can meet the blackcock and the grey hen, while the fast mountain waters are rich in trout and grayling.

**Geomorphological data.** The administrative territory of Slănic Moldova lies on the eastern sides of Nemira mountains. The river Slănic carved a narrow valley, where the populated areas are placed. The edges in the urban areas are around 800 - 1000 m height. In the north of the resort we can find Pufu mountain (936 m), with sharp hills.

The area of Cheșcheș, neighbor to the valley of Doftana, to north - west, is a hill that leads to the high altitudes of mountains: Șandru Mare (1639 m) and Nemira (1648 m). On the

left side of Slănic Valley, starting from Vf. Pufu, the chine of Cheșcheș (810 m) lies, a plateau that leads to the mountain Șandru Mare in two stairs.

From the geomorphological point of view, we distinguish the following relief forms:

- the low, inferior terrace;
- the inferior terrace;
- the mountainous versants.

The town is built mainly on the first two terraces. In the neighborhood of the place where the river of Slănic feeds the river Troțuș we find the hill Măgura, an important attraction point for the tourists.

### **3. Use of land**

#### **Tourism**

The city of Slănic Moldova, balneo-climateric resort that is unique in Moldova, is included into the national touristic network of resorts.

The touristic potential is backed up by diverse landscapes, by a sedative, calming bioclimate and by the presence of hydro-mineral sources. All these confer to Slănic Moldova the character of a climateric resort.

The touristic activity, as the dominant economic profile of the town Slănic Moldova, has been established following an analysis of the touristic offer and demand. The main functionality is that of treatment of specific affections, but that for leisure is also important.

The existence of the natural factors leads to three types of medical care profiles:

- preventive;
- treatment;
- functional recovery.

For the resort Slănic Moldova, spa potential consists of water quality, their highly therapeutic value and proper water flow capacity, valued as reserves. This has determines the spa feature of the resort, appropriate for the treatment of digestive diseases, accessory digestive glands, respiratory system, nutrition and metabolism diseases. The resort is unique in Romania as well as in Europe. On a relatively narrow area there are a lot of springs, various with respect to their composition, concentration, chemical complexity and therapeutical effects.

Slănic Moldova has important resources of mineral waters, researched and exploited since the beginning of the XIX-th century. Complex investigations done in the last years (project no. 2425/II - 1980 developed by I.M.F.B.R.M.) and reconfirmed through the study done by S.C. "MINACVA SERV" S.R.L București in 1999 emphasized that the springs have a carbonated, bi-carbonated, slightly sulfurous, chloride, sodic, hypertonic, hypotonic and oligo-mineral composition. There are 24 resources of water, among which 20 are exploited, 3 are preserved and 1 is backup. Among the 20 available, only 13 are really used. Slănic Moldova is one of the 12 spa resorts of national importance with mineral springs that have received awards in many international contests - Frankfurt (1881), Vienna (1973), Paris (1889).

The quality of the natural or ambiental environment tend to get bigger and bigger importance. To keep unaltered the eco-peisagistic system becomes major, in the case of the balnear resorts, because the healing and treatment factors of the resort cannot be valorized in an environment that is affected. The importance of this factor comes from the fact that this is the main generator of touristical and leisure, preventive treatments and curative treatment. We can find in Slănic Moldova: beauty therapy, rejuvenating cures, treatment of weight issues, nutrition, treatment of digestive disorders and in preventing serious diet-related diseases,

including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and strokes. These elements are essential for the touristic potential.

**Industry.** Considering its specificity, Slănic Moldova does not have an industrial platform, it has only a few units of local importance and necessity, to serve the population: bread factory, production units for S.C. “SIND ROMÂNIA”, Slănic Moldova branch, auto-service and wood workshops.

On the administrative territory there are four drilling parks belonging to S.N.P. “PETROM” S.A. Moinești branch.

The basic industry of the town is the balneary tourism. Most of the inhabitants (living in town and around) work in the existing hotels and sanatorium complexes. The public administration, forestry and stock raising involve some small percentage of the population. The unemployment is still high – around 20% of the population.

#### **4. Use of Renewable Energies**

Because Slănic Moldova benefits from a natural environment and rich mineral springs, the desire of the administrative authorities was to preserve this environment unaltered, keeping it away from the industrial pollution and developing the resort in this approach: ecological and balneary tourism. This fact is established in the Strategy of Socio-Economical Development of the town until 2013, adopted through the **Decision of the Local Council nr. 67/ 17.07.2008** and later, in the **Development strategy of Slănic Moldova during the period 2010-2020**, strategy that establish the basics of the sustainable development of the town.

On the same direction of sustainable development is launched in 2009, at the initiative of Mr. Deputy Iulian Iancu, the project „Slanic Moldova – Green town” which aims the development of some exploitation systems of renewable energy sources. Following this initiative, in March 2009, a modern heating with solar panels is starting to work at School no. 2 in Cireșoaia neighborhood. The launching festivity had guests from local, regional and national level, while European Union has been represented by Mr George Kremlis, European counselor on environment problems.

As about raising the energy efficiency, we can mention the thermal isolation works on the buildings of the public, local administration: schools, kindergartens, and the administrative headquarter.

Year 2009 also represents the year when Slănic Moldova joins RURENER project. The participation in this project lead to an increase of the determination to gain the energetic neutrality and ensured the access at information and important tools developed within this project.



**5. SWOT analysis of the pilot community Slănic Moldova, România**

INTERNAL		NEGATIVE	
POSITIVE	<b>STENGTHS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Special natural environment, existence of mineral springs.</li> <li>2. Development of the community in line with the valorization of natural resources.</li> <li>3. RES experience: solar pannels at one of the schools of the community</li> <li>4. Strong commitment of the City Hall and Local Council</li> <li>5. Existence of the plan of sustainable development of the city</li> <li>6. Stimulation at local level, through the project „Slănic Moldova – green town”</li> <li>7. ARCE (Romanian Agency for Energy Preservation) support</li> </ol>		<b>WEAKNESSES</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energy efficiency of the buildings is not an obligation, yet</li> <li>2. Low interest of the private investors for Res</li> <li>3. Lack of awareness of the citizens</li> <li>4. High costs of the implementation of exploiting RES systems</li> </ol>
	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience of the City Hall in project development</li> <li>2. Thermal isolation of the administrative buildings</li> <li>3. Supporting of the regional and national administration.</li> </ol>		<b>THREATS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of financial resources</li> <li>2. Difficulties of the administration in the implementation of the project.</li> </ol>
EXTERNAL			

