

ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES OF BUCHAREST
DOCTORAL SCHOOL: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DOCTORAL THESIS SUMMARY

**THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE DANUBE DELTA
IN THE CONTEXT OF A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY**

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	I
SUMMARY	II
THANKS	III
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOPIC AND THE REASONS FOR APPROACHING IT	1
1.1.1. The Danube Delta - European geosystem	1
1.1.2. Theoretical background. Notions on ecotourism	5
1.1.2.1. Ecotourism. Concept and definition	5
1.1.2.2. Principles of ecotourism	6
1.1.2.3. Profile of the ecotourist	7
1.2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	10
1.3. RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH	12
1.4. STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS	14
2. CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH	17
2.1. BIBLIOMETRIC APPROACHES ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE DANUBE DELTA	17
2.2. THEORETICAL INCURSIONS INTO THE DEFINITION OF ECOTOURISM	34
2.3. ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES PROMOTED ON THE TOURIST MARKET	44
2.3.1. Certifications and criteria for ecotourism destinations	45
2.3.2. Ecotourism resources in Romania	46
2.3.3. Statistics on ecotourism destinations and structures	49
2.4. CROSS-BORDER ECOTOURISM: SUSTAINABILITY MODELS IN THE DANUBE DELTA AND THE RHÔNE DELTA	51
2.4.1. Danube Delta	53
2.4.2. Rhône Delta - France	68
2.5. SERVICE QUALITY IN ECOTOURISM	79
2.5.1. The concept of quality	80
2.5.2. Characteristics of quality in services	82

2.5.3. Quality of ecotourism services	87
2.5.4. The importance of service quality in ecotourism in involving local communities	97
2.5.5. Eco-Romania ecotourism certification system	100
2.5.5.1. Ecotourism quality certification system	102
2.5.5.2. Criteria for determining the quality of ecotourism in European Union countries	113
3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH PARADIGMS	120
4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	124
4.1. METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN	125
4.2. THE EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE	127
4.3. SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	128
5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	131
5.1. EXPLORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT VARIOUS DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES	131
5.1.1. Environmental Attitudes and Perceptions by Gender	131
5.1.2. Ecological Attitude and Perception by Age	138
5.1.3. Ecological Attitudes and Perceptions by Professional Status	146
5.1.4. Ecological Attitudes and Perceptions by Educational Level	151
5.1.5. Ecological Attitude and Perception by Income	158
5.1.6. Urban versus Rural: Divergences in Environmental Awareness and Action	164
5.2. ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	171
5.2.1. Analysis of responsibility for local environmental protection by gender	171
5.2.2. Analysis of responsibility for local environmental protection by age groups	175
5.2.3. Analysis of local environmental responsibility by education level	179
5.2.4. Analysis of local environmental responsibility by professional status	183
5.2.5. Analysis of local environmental responsibility by income	185
5.2.6. Analysis of local environmental responsibility by background	186
5.3. VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF THE DANUBE DELTA: A HIERARCHICAL MULTIFACTOR REGRESSION ANALYSIS	190
5.3.1. Theoretical background	190
5.3.1.1. Ecosystem services	192

5.3.1.2. Attractiveness	193
5.3.1.3. Perception of Sustainability and Tourism Potential of the Danube Delta	194
5.3.1.4. Obstacles	195
5.3.2. Methodology used	196
5.3.3. Results and discussion	202
5.3.4. Conclusions	205
6. CONCLUSIONS	206
7. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	219
8. ANNEXES	
ANNEX 1. Ecological Attitude and Perception according to Professional Status	234
ANNEX 2. Ecological Attitudes and Perceptions according to the total monthly net household (family) income	237
ANNEX 3. Analysis of responsibility for local environmental protection by Professional Status	240
ANNEX 4. Analysis of environmental responsibility at local level in relation to the total monthly net household (family) income	243
ANNEX 5. Questionnaire	246
9. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	251
10. LIST OF TABLES	252
11. LIST OF FIGURES	253

Keywords: tourism, ecotourism, Danube Delta, ecological perception, sustainability, bibliometric analysis, environmental protection.

THESIS SYNOPSIS

The research dedicated to the development of tourism in the Danube Delta emphasizes the crucial role of ecotourism and sustainable practices, incorporating a rigorous scientific approach based on conceptual and epistemological frameworks that contribute to the understanding of the relationship between man and nature and develop tourism strategies that respect and valorize the natural and cultural heritage of the Delta without degrading it.

The role of local communities is essential; the inhabitants of the Delta are increasingly becoming involved as promoters of tourism, while at the same time being its custodians and direct beneficiaries. Through education and awareness-raising, ecotourism aims to awaken in visitors a deep appreciation for the environment and a commitment to its protection.

A central focus of the study is the socio-economic impact of tourism, which, if properly managed, can bring prosperity to the region, but requires an equitable distribution of benefits. The quality and sustainability of tourism services are imperative, and the study supports the importance of certifications and strategies focused on responsible tourism.

The bibliometric analysis conducted is particularly valuable, highlighting current research dynamics and providing directions for future innovation. The conceptual mapping revealed significant key terms and interconnections in the field, highlighting climate change and the need for environmental protection as focal points. The studies also highlight the enormous potential of ecotourism in Romania as a driver of natural conservation and sustainable development, emphasizing the quality of the tourism experience and the involvement of local communities as essential for the long-term viability of the industry.

1. The *Introduction* section discusses the ecological and geographical importance of the Danube Delta in the European context, introduces basic concepts related to ecotourism and its importance. The objectives and main research questions as well as the practical and theoretical importance of the study for the field of ecotourism and the protection of the Danube Delta are established. Structure of the thesis: Brief presentation of the chapters and subchapters of the thesis.

2. *Current state of the research:* analysis of existing literature and previous studies on

tourism in the Danube Delta; theoretical discussion of ecotourism and a review of specific ecotourism activities.

3. *The conceptual framework and research paradigms* present the impact of tourism development in the Danube Delta refers to the analysis and evaluation of the complex relationship between tourists, tourism products offered and tourism resources in the area. This concept involves understanding how tourist visits to different monuments, objectives or attractions in the Danube Delta have an effect on the environment, local communities and the regional economy.

4. *Research methodology*: strategies and methods used to collect and analyze data, research tools used, details about the respondent group

5. *Results and discussion*: explores the ecotourism behavior of the subjects and analyzes relevant demographic and socio-economic variables. It also assesses responsibility for environmental protection and ecosystem services provided by the Danube Delta. It is the case study section of the thesis.

6. *Conclusions*: synthesis of main findings and recommendations.

7. *References*: List of sources used in the research.

Developing tourism in the Danube Delta in the context of a sustainable bio-economy implies capitalizing on natural resources in a way that ensures biodiversity conservation and long-term sustainability. This approach involves the promotion of ecotourism, which prioritizes environmental protection and the involvement of local communities in economic activities. By implementing responsible ecotourism practices, such as the use of renewable energy, proper waste management and educating tourists, the Danube Delta can become a model of sustainable bio-economy, contributing to the preservation of the region's natural and cultural heritage.