

VASLUI COUNTY –GENERAL PRESENTATION

Situated in the East of Romania, along the middle course of the river Barlad and bounding on the East side with the Republic Moldova, Vaslui county is in the first year of integration as a member of the European Union as a “European space” with an important cultural and historical heritage. Today, when these people who live on these lands have become European citizens, we must realize the fact that we possess a treasure of archaeological, ethnographical and folkloric values, and historical monuments which have to be put forward, because this cultural and historical treasure certifies the millenary existence of our people on these lands as well as its particularity in the universal culture.

Therefore, the existence of the most ancient settlements on the territory of Vaslui county is proved by the archaeological discoveries in the Neolithic and the first documentary certifications of some localities, showed up in 1375, also in internal documents from 1423. Between 1435-1442, Vaslui was considered the second citadel in Moldova. The patriotism of the inhabitants on these lands was illustrated in the grand battle won by Stefan cel Mare in 1475 at Podul Inalt, near Vaslui, battle known in our history as being the greatest European victory against the Turks, until the siege of Viena. In the following centuries the inhabitants of the county participated to all the historical events that marked the history of Romania.

Testimonies of the historical past, appreciated and treasured today by those who visit our county are the Ruins of the Royal Courtyard and St. John Church (1490), foundation of Stefan cel Mare, the palace Mavrocordat from the XIXth century, Ghica Mansion, the oldest profane building in Vaslui, the Royal Church, built during the reign of Vasile Lupu (1634), St. George Church built in 1843, S. Belloescu Library currently holding over 150.000 volumes and a significant number of rare books registered in the cultural-national patrimony (1906), Vasile Parvan Museum (1914), all in Barlad, and in Husi, the Royal Palace from the XVth century, the Royal church from the XVIth century, the Church built by Stefan cel Mare between 1494 and 1495, become an Episcopal church in 1598, during the reign of Eremia Movila. Therewith all the recently renovated monasteries from Floresti can be visited (founded in the XVth century), Moreni or Fistici (built in a baroque style in 1721).

The cultural European dimension of Vaslui county is given by a series of personalities who bound their names to these lands through their birth, or their living or their formation as intellectuals here. Among these personalities: the historians Dimitrie Cantemir and Nicolae Milescu Spataru, the writers Alexandru Vlahuta, Ionel Teodoreanu, Constantin Chirita, the dramatist Victor Ion Popa, the poet George Tutoveanu, the painter Nicolae Tonitza, the sculptor Marcel Guguianu, the actors Constantin Tanase, Stefan Ciubotarasu and Alexandru Giugaru, the physicist Stefan Procopiu, the biologist Emil Racovita, the linguist Alexandru Philippide, the historian Vasile Parvan and the theatre critic Valentin Silvestru as well as the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

The gallery of the feminine personalities is completed by Elena Cuza, the wife of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Florica Baltazar-the first woman minister of health, Luiza Zavloschi-the first woman mayor in Romania, Smaranda Braescu-the first woman aviator in Romania, Elena Ghica-the first actress on a Romanian stage and the poet Elena Farago. Coming back to our days, we cannot forget the name of two celebrities, one fro the world of art, the other from the world of sports, born in our county and famous in the whole world. The first is Alexandra Nichita, surnamed “the little Picasso”, whose paintings are also admired in the international expositions, by the critics of art and by the public. The second one is the gymnast Andreea Raducan, winner of two world titles and an Olympic one with the feminine gym team of Romania.

We have to mention the fact that the two components of the native, cultural and balneary tourism (the balneary center Ghermanesti) can be happily completed with the potential of development of the rural tourism. This is because the rural region preserves traditions, customs, handicrafts and old habits where talent and attraction for beauty is materialized in real works of

art-popular costumes, carpets manually made, fabrics, skinner, masks. A part of these can be admired with the occasion of the international festival "Hora din batrani". More than that, the broad-leaved trees (especially the oaken ones), where hunting matches can be organized, the ponds and the lakes generous in fish can become points of attraction for the tourists willing to meet authentic places with an archaic signification. The quiet atmosphere of the our villages, the approach to nature offers the visitors especially to the foreigners interesting vacations. A special mention for the wines and the vineyards from the region of Husi famous in the whole country because of the professionalism proved by the ones who work in the field. In order to convince yourselves you have to go visit the Agricultural high school with a win-growing profile one of the oldest and most prestigious institution of profile from this country. The high school possesses a valuable wine chamber which counts 22.000 bottles, a museum of profile, and can organize evening events of wine piddle for the tourists. If all these will be sustained by a promotional adequate activity and not at last by the quality of our services offered to the visitors, the potential that we mentioned before would become reality.

From the economic development point of view, we have to mention the two projects of infra-structure of business introduced in the county. The first which was finalized is the Business Center Tutova-Barlad, financed on the PHARE program CES 2002, the second one is the Center of Resource for Business- Vaslui, which received European financial support on the program PHARE CES 2004-2006. These projects are meant to provide information, services and technologies in order to increase the level of competitiveness of the little and middle enterprises from the county. Also, the settlement of the county to a relative small distance from the international airport Iasi (75 km), or the international airport Bacau (85 km) can become a concrete argument for the attraction of possible investors. On January the 1st 2007, date when Romania adhered the European Union, Vaslui represents a part of the East border of the Union, fact that will confer it a greater responsibility and will make it at the same time more attractive. The industrial sector is concentrated especially on the urban centers. The industrial representative fields for the county are: the textile and skin industry, the alimentary industry, the machines and equipments industry(ball bearings, bushes, metallurgic and oil equipment, measure and control equipment).

In the past few years, the services developed significantly especially in the domain of transport, maintenance and redressing activities, consultancy activities and building transactions. That is why we have to underline that in basis of a project that got financial support through the National Program "Development of the infra-structure through innovation and technological transfer", within the Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture Vaslui, there will be constituted in a short period of time The Center of Technological Information mainly focused on the domain of agriculture and alimentary industry, with the goal of promoting the innovative culture among the enterprisers, especially to the level of the small and middle enterprises and in order to assure the technological transfer, through transfer of information and sessions of training for personnel.

We express our hope that the short presentation of Vaslui county will contribute to the initiation and development of business with firms from Vaslui. For the facilitation of the business relations of collaboration with the business environment from Vaslui, we invite economic operators outside the borders of the county to trustfully appeal to the services of our institution.

***TEAM OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INDUSTRY AND
AGRICULTURE VASLUI***