

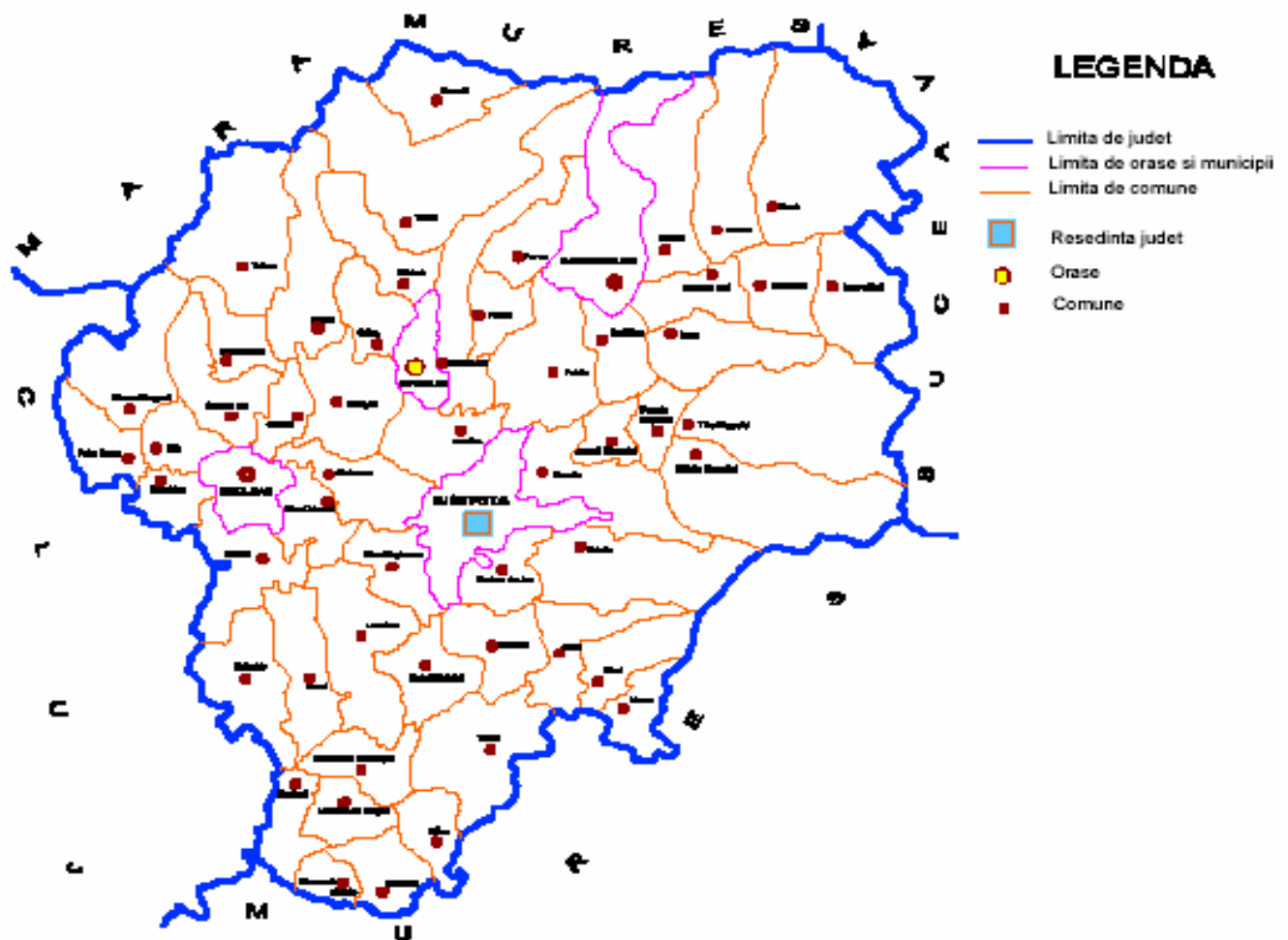
BISTRIȚA-NĂSĂUD COUNTY

GEOGRAPHICAL LANDMARKS

▪ Geographical position

Bistrița-Năsăud county is situated in the north of Romania, it is surrounded by Maramureș county in the north, Suceava county in the east, Mureș county in the south and Cluj county in the west and it stretches over an area of 535.520 hectares.

Bistrița-Năsăud county is formed of 62 administrative-territorial units among which one county town, 3 cities, 58 small towns and 25 villages.



The county town of **Bistrița** is an important economic, cultural and administrative centre.

The town of **Năsăud** is an old cultural centre with plastics, textile and food industry.

The town of **Beclean** is an important railway point of junction and has metallurgical and food industry.

The town of **Sâgeorz-Băi** is a tourist resort with therapeutical mineral waters.

Important roads that connect Transylvania to Moldova and Maramureș cross the county, like the European Road E 58.

The main railway junctions are to be found at Beclean, Sărățel and Salva.

As far as air transportation is concerned, Bistrița-Năsăud county is served by the Cluj-Napoca airport, situated at 125 km from Bistrița or by the Târgu Mureș airport situated at approximately 100 km from Bistrița.



Mountain scenery from Bistrița-Năsăud

- **Landform**

The county's landforms are complex and present themselves as a great natural amphitheater which descends towards the Transylvanian plain.

The mountain area is made of several mountains from the chain of the Oriental Carpathian mountains, the north and middle group surrounding the county.

The hill area is present in the central and western part of the county in a proportion of 2/3 of its entire area.

The county has a rich hydrographic net centred on the main river Someșul Mare. Apart from streams, there are also some lakes worth mentioning: the glacial lakes in Rodnei Mountains – Lala Mare, Lala Mică; Tăul Zânelor in Călimani Mountains which is of tourist and grazing importance.

On the river Bistrița, downstream from Colibița there is a storage lake with a volume of more than 80 millions m³.



Storage lake Colibița

In the rifts and the shell of the volcanic mountains there are also mineralised phreatic waters.

Bicarbonate, calcic, mineral and magnesium rich waters, known as „borcuturi”, can be found at Sâgeorz-Băi, Anieș, Valea Vinului, Șanț, Târlîșua, Lunca Ilvei, Ilva Mare, Măgura Ilvei, Colibița, while clorosodic waters can be found at Nepos, Figa, Pinticu Tecii.

• Climate

Bistrița-Năsăud county has a moderate continental climate.

Annual rainfalls, depending on the season, are greater than the country average, the latter being of 680 mm/year.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

At 1st January 2007 the total population of Bistrița-Năsăud county was of 316.932 inhabitants.

36,5% of the population lives in the urban area and 63,5% in the rural area.

The ethnic structure of the population is the following: Romanians (90.2%), Hungarians (5.9%), Rroma (3.6%), Germans (0.2%) and other nationalities (0.1%).

Statistics show that 82.9% of the county's population is orthodox, while the rest embraces other religions: evangelical 4.6%, pentecostal 6.4%, greek-catholic 2.3%, roman-catholic 1.2%, adventist 0.5%, baptist 0.8%, other religions 1.1%, without religion 0.1%.

The active civil population is present in: agriculture – 58%, industry – 18.8%, constructions – 3.08%, trade and services – 7%, administration – 2.5%, education – 5%, healthcare – 3.9%, other workfields – 8.6%.

ECONOMIC DATA

▪ Industry

The main industrial branches represented in the county by economic agents are the following: metallurgy, engineering, electrotechnics, plastics industry, woodwork, textile industry, mining, glass manufacturing industry and food industry. Economic units are mainly found in urban centres and especially in the county town Bistrița.

Among the county's industrial products one can mention: cold-drawn steel wires, energetic, metallurgic and refractory tools, electrical cables and conductors, nonconducting materials, aluminium accumulators, construction timber and wood furniture, plastic products, glassware for the household etc. Industry is best represented in Bistrița-Năsăud county in the areas of Rodna, Măgura Ilvei and Anieș by non-ferrous metal processing and by constructions materials.

The main companies activating in industry:

- **Leoni Wiring Systems Ro S.R.L. Bistrița** – produces car cabling;
- **Teraplast Group SA Bistrița** – produces PVC products (pipes, fittings, extruded sections for interior and exterior equipment, beads), wall tiles, decorative products;
- **Radiatoare din Aluminiu SA Bistrița** – produces car parts and accessories (aluminium radiators);
- **Rombat SA Bistrița** – one of the main producers of car accumulators;
- **Iproeb SA Bistrița** – produces cables, conducting and nonconducting cords and wheelings;
- **Comelf SA Bistrița** – produces soldered metal structures and components;
- **Ario SA Bistrița** – produces steel valves;
- **Mebis SA Bistrița** – produces hydraulic and pneumatic equipments, mobile pneumatic tools;
- **Miro S.A. Bistrița** – produces blanking parts, steel rings and appliances for the production of rings, metal products;
- **Dan Steel Group S.A. Beclean** – produces metallurgical products (wire, bolts, wireproducts); laminated and moulded-in products;
- **Somplast S.A. Năsăud** – produces elastic plastic wrappings;
- **Roseyarns S.R.L. Bistrița**—produces acrylic fibres.

• Agriculture and forestry

Bistrița-Năsăud county has an agricultural area of 298.922 hectares, namely 55.8% of the county's total area. Most of the land is in the possession of private owners and meadows and grasslands are the most present. This

distribution of the cultivable lands determines the structure of the agricultural production, where the greatest part is played by livestock breeding. Cultivable land is mostly present in the southern area of the county.

The greatest part of agricultural, vegetal and animal products is processed by economic agents from the county. One can mention CARMOLACT MONOR, CALATIS GRUP, BENDEAR CRIS, LUMIDAN as companies working in dairy-production, AGRO INVEST, CARAIMAN as companies that produce meat products, VALIBYA, GAMA, PANAROMA as companies with grist and bread manufacturing activities, NATUR FRUCT as a producer of natural fruit juices.

The Bistrița Working Party for the Research and Development of Fruit Farming has as objective the research in the field of fruit growing and the development of new apple, pear, plum, cherry, sour cherry varieties and the improvement of agricultural technologies.



Forests in Bârgăului Mountains

35.7% of the county's area is covered with forests, these being an important resource for future development. The widest forest areas are found in the Rodna area (30.9%), Năsăud area (24.9%) and Bârgău area (15.1%) and they represent 2/3 of the forestry.

▪ **Commerce, service and tourism**

The sale of goods is entirely made through private structures.

Main exports consist of machines, electrical devices and equipments, textile products, wood products, furniture, plastics products, animals etc.

Services are represented by the industrial services, the constructions field, the transportation field, the post, the radio and the television, the finance and

banking services. The majority of economic agents from the field of services are private businessmen.

Banking services are provided in all the county's towns by branch offices of the main banks operating in Romania.

Tourism is a particular domaine due to the natural conditions offered by the geographical position of the county and to the existing material basis. Bistrița-Năsăud county possesses a rich tourist potential which is not fully fructified at present. The mountain area is a true tourist attraction offering a range of activities from relaxation, treatment, to sports and hitchhiking. The material basis for tourism in Bistrița-Năsăud county is made of 22 accommodation units with 11 hotels and villas, chalets or guesthouses.



Dracula Hotel

- **Foreign capital and business opportunities**

In Bistrița-Năsăud county there are 543 companies with foreign capital, most of them having German capital (158), but also Italian capital (102), Austrian capital (63), American capital (27), Hungarian capital (23) and French capital (22).



Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Bistrița Năsăud

The geographic position of the county, the landform, the socio—economic conditions offer investors business opportunities related to:

- the tourist potential, which is very high, but not well capitalized and which includes: the mineral waters from Sângeorz Băi, the salty waters from Bistrița and Figa, the storage lake and the microclimate from Colibița. the possibility of developing agrotourism in Valea Ilvelor, Valea Bârgăului, Valea Anieșului, Valea Sălăuței and the superior basin of Someșul Mare
- the agricultural potential which offers opportunities of developing a system of microfarming in the field of livestock breeding, viticulture and fruit growing
 - a high melliferous potential, as there are many natural meadows with linden and acacia trees
 - forests, which cover an important area of the county and offer the possibility of organising hunts and of capitalizing wood berries and mushrooms
 - the cultivation of medicinal herbs
 - the possibility of developing a craftsmanship industry – wool processing, pottery, small furniture pieces and wood objects, leather processing, traditional vegetables and fruit tins
 - food industry, light industry, electrotechnic industry, machine construction and plastics processing

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BISTRIȚA-NĂSĂUD COUNTY

Until 2010, through better management of local ecological problems and through the encouragement of :

- tourism – myths, traditions and unique elements of international value
- ecological agricultural production
- clean industrial production

- inovative industrial products, especially ecological industrial products
- human resources
- export

Bistrița-Năsăud county wishes to transform its feature of agro-industrial county into a competitive advantage and through the accomplished results aims to create and consolidate the image of a tourist, agricultural, industrial, ecological area, both at national and international level, an image that will support sustainable development.

SOCIAL CULTURAL DATA

The county's health network is made of 3 hospitals, 153 private medical offices, 3 specialized ambulatories, 50 dentist offices, 52 pharmacies.

Senior citizen care and protection is provided in three specialized units: Home for Senior Citizens Bistrița, St. Luca Center in Nușeni, Hospital and Asylum for adults and chronic patients in Beclean, while minors are being looked for in 9 specialized units: a baby orphanage, a special kindergarten, 3 orphanages, 2 special grammar schools and an arts and crafts school, a hospital section for minors.

Elementary and middle school is well provided, there are 263 educational units in the county, a music school and 3 special education institutions.



National College Liviu Rebreanu

Secondary school can be attended in 25 high schools with different profiles and in an arts and crafts institution.

At present there are 11 state and private higher education institutions which ensure training in the following fields: healthcare, tourism, public administration, education, social work, economics, law.



Cultural Centre George Coșbuc

In the field of culture, one has to mention the county's 8 museums, 4 cultural centers, 56 town halls, 129 libraries – a specialized one, 60 school libraries and 60 public libraries.

In the field of sports, one can mention the 104 sports fields, 4 swimming pools, 28 gyms, 7 sports centers and stadiums. The football team Gloria Bistrița plays in the country's first football league.



The sports centre from Bistrița

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

The county has many natural reservations like: Rodnei Mountains National Park, Călimani Mountains National Park with special rocks, minerals and geological structures, mountain fauna and flora with rare species, Arcalia Arboretum in Șieu-Măgheruș where rare species of trees and shrubs can be seen.



The castle from the Arcalia arboretum

The Evangelical Church in the centre of Bistrița was built 600 years ago and is one of the most important historical vestiges of the county.

Only 500 metres away one can see an orthodox cathedral and nearby a fragment of the defense wall that used to surround the city of Bistrița. Other quite large fragments of this wall can be seen near the city's park, where they embed a defence stronghold „The Coopers' Tower”.



Historical monuments from Bistrița-Năsăud county



The cultural potential of the county lies in its great number of historical monuments (530) and in its mobile cultural patrimony, but also in the traditions of this area.



Wood church from Bistrița-Năsăud county

In the mountain areas of the county one can practice mountaineering, walking tours can be organized and at Piatra Fântânele one can practice winter sports.



Winter landscape from Bârgăului mountains

Moreover, a network of agrotourism has started to develop as a consequence of picturesque landscapes and unique customs and rituals.



Folklore and traditions in Bistrița-Năsăud county

As they are situated in a lovely landscape, in an area with a pleasant climate and with a high tourist potential, Piatra Fântânele, Colibița, Valea Blaznei, Valea Vinului, Fiad, Cormaia have become important tourist attractions.



Mountain landscape - Colibița

Sângeorz Băi resort also presents an important tourist potential, as it is a well known balneary and climatic resort with therapeutical mineral waters.

Bistrița-Năsăud county has several cultural symbols that can support its tourist potential. Such tourist and cultural locations are: the homes and now museums of great Romanian writers – „George Coșbuc” Museum in the George Coșbuc village, „Liviu Rebreanu” Museum in Maieru and Liviu Rebreanu village, „Ion Pop Reteganul” Museum in Petru Rareș (Reteag). Other cultural tourist attractions are the County’s Museum, Museum of the Guards in Năsăud and the Under the Gate Museum.



The County Museum Bistrița-Năsăud

LOCAL MASS-MEDIA

In Bistrița-Năsăud county mass-media is represented by:

- the private TV channel Tele 7 Bistrița
- the daily newspapers Răsunetul and Mesagerul
- the weekly publications Atac de Bistrița and Gazeta de Bistrița
- the radio stations: Radio Transilvania, Radio Bistrița, Radio 21.



“Peacock feather” – adornment element of the male traditional costume from the Năsăud area