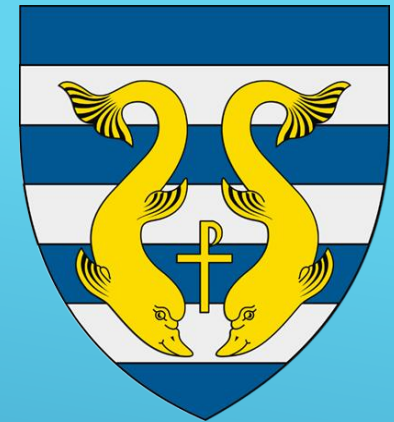
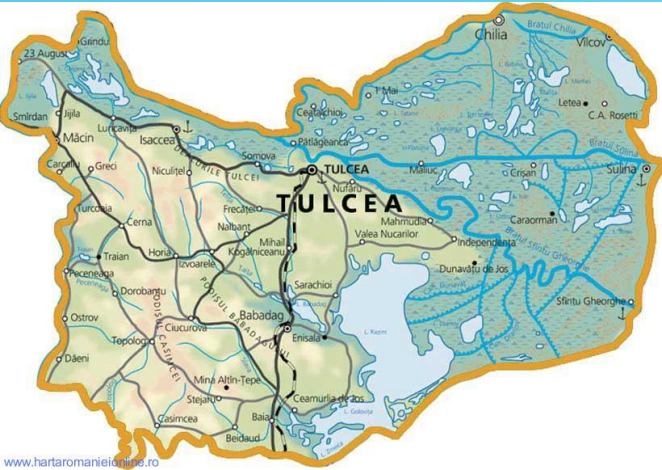
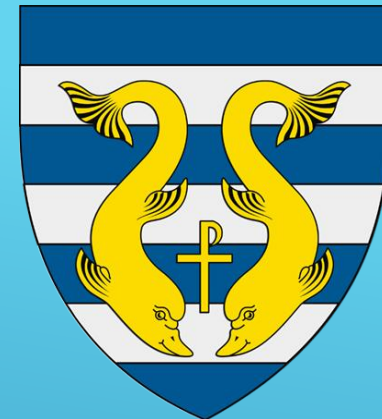
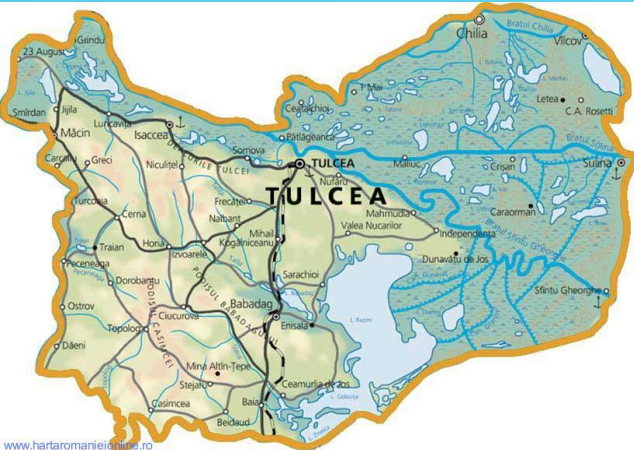


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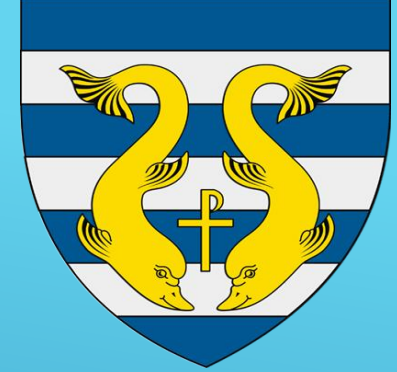


▶ Session II - "Destinations' response to cruise development challenges"



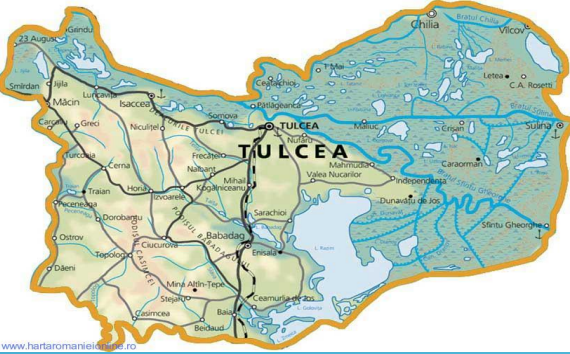
- ▶ The number of cruise ships arriving in the Danube Delta has almost doubled in the last 10 years, according to the data provided by the Tulcea Port Area Capability, the Maritime Danube Ports Administration (APDM) Galati and the tour operators.
- ▶ Last year, in Port of Tulcea there were 158 cruise ships that had 22,499 passengers on board. In the other ports in the county, 140 cruise ships with 17,464 passengers were also covered.
- ▶ The 298 cruise ships that arrived in the county last year represent the largest number of arrivals in the Danube Delta ports in the last 10 years.





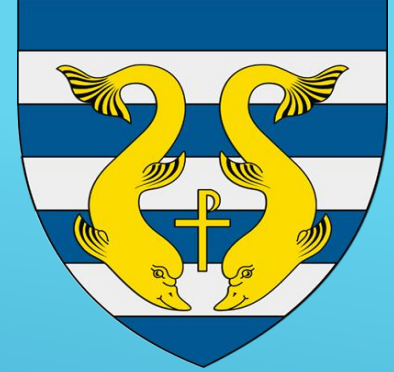
- ▶ The smallest river and sea cruise ships that have landed in the last 10 years in the ports of Tulcea County, respectively 137, registered in 2010, when in the county were expected about 200 ships. However, their number has fallen, both as a result of the financial crisis of previous years, and of the competition of Ukrainian operators who used lower rates for walks in the Delta, according to the Tulcea operators.
- ▶ In 2014, the year marked by the Crimean conflict, the number of cruise ships approached the number of 2016, the Black Sea Basin geopolitical situation leaving its mark the following year, when in the harbors in the county they landed 65 ships cruise less. This difference was also caused by the sharp decrease of the Danube level.
- ▶ Some tourist operators in the county have explained the increase of the cruise phenomenon in the Danube Delta, even in the context of the sensitive situation in the Black Sea basin, through the sense of security offered by the status of Romania, an EU member state and NATO.





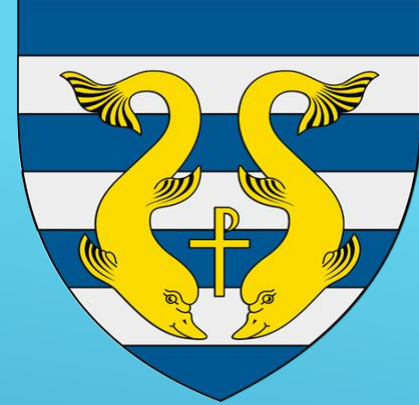
- ▶ Another explanation for the increase in the number of cruise ships arriving in the Danube Delta this year may be changing the strategy of some international companies in the field to give up the Black Sea cruises in favor of the river. This hypothesis can be sustained by decreasing by 10 times the number of sea cruise ships that have stood the year on the Romanian seaside compared to the year 2013.
- ▶ It is worth mentioning that the health problems registered in Tulcea County 10 years ago, namely the outbreaks of avian influenza, did not lead to a significant decrease in the number of cruise ships arriving in the Delta in the next two years.





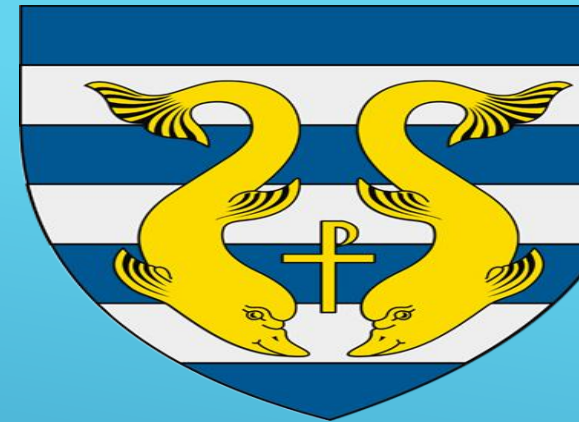
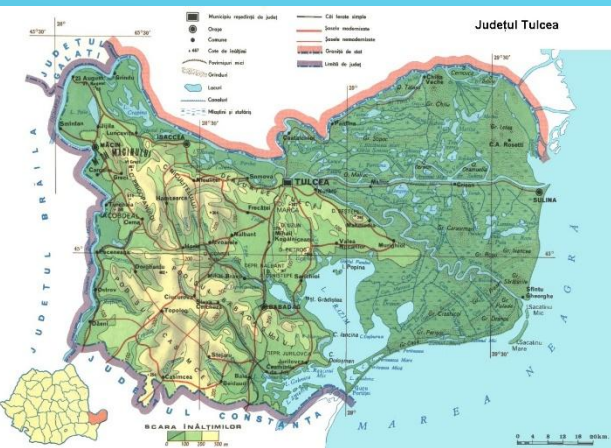
- ▶ The first river cruise ships that had on board Western tourists arrived in the Danube Delta in the early 2000s. On the basis of requests from foreign tourists, Tulcea operators offer them rides in the Danube Delta, during which they can taste traditional dishes or can see folk performances supported by assemblies in the county. Cruise tourists offer excursions to the Saon, Celic-Dere and Cocosu monasteries, the Paleocristian Basilica of Niculițel, as well as visits to the art museums of the city.





- ▶ The Danube Delta, declared Biosphere Reserve in 1990, has a total area of 4,455 square kilometers, 84% of which is on the territory of Romania, and the rest is that of Ukraine. A wetland of international importance, the Danube Delta is included in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List, and in Romania there are about 12,000 people living in isolated water communities.





Thank you for your attention!

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