

Contributions to the presentation through modern methods of the natural landscape of the Mehedinți County

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Abstract Mehedinți County is located in southwestern Romania, on the border with Serbia and Bulgaria, and is bordered to the south by the Danube River. It has an area of 493,289 hectares which represent 2.1% of the area of Romania.

It has a varied relief consisting of mountains, plateaus and plains that appear in the form of an amphitheatre arranged in steps that descend from the north-west to the south-east. The highest relief step is located in the north-west and consists of the Mehedinți and Cernei Mountains. The middle step comprises the Mehedinți Plateau, the Motrului Hills and the high plain of Bălăcița. The lowest step consists largely of the Blahnița Plain and the Danube terraces.

From the point of view of administrative-territorial organization, the county consists of 2 municipalities (Drobeta-Turnu Severin and Orșova), 3 cities, 61 communes, and 344 villages. Informational Geographic Systems, together with GPS technology, have managed to provide extremely accurate information on the location, relief, hydrography, and biodiversity of a particular geographical area. The present paper aims to make a contribution to the presentation of the natural framework of Mehedinți County using these modern techniques.

Key words

Geographic Information Systems, cartographic representations, national parks, nature reserves

From the point of view of administrative-territorial organization, the county consists of 2 municipalities (Drobeta-Turnu Severin and Orșova), 3 cities, 61 communes, and 344 villages [7, 11, 14, 15]. Informational Geographic Systems, together with GPS technology, have managed to provide extremely accurate information on the location, relief, hydrography, and biodiversity of a particular geographical area [12, 13].

The present paper aims to make a contribution to the presentation of the natural framework of Mehedinți County using these modern techniques [4, 8, 16]. Mehedinți County has an area of 493,289 ha, which represents 2.1% of the area of our country [2, 3, 5].

It has a varied relief consisting of mountains, plateaus, and plains, and has the form of an amphitheatre arranged in steps [1, 6, 9].

Informational Geographic Systems, together with GPS technology, have managed to provide extremely accurate information on the location, relief, hydrography, and biodiversity of a particular geographical area.

Material and Method

In order to carry out this work, the first stage of work was the creation of the database: the studied area and its current limits were individualized. Current or older cartographic materials were accessed but, at the same time, statistical data were collected from high-profile institutions or public databases. All this allowed the realization of cartographic representations related to the location, relief, as well as the territorial-administrative organization of Mehedinți County.

Results and Discussions

Mehedinți County is located in south-western Romania, on the border with Serbia and Bulgaria, and is bordered to the south by the Danube River.

Mehedinți County borders Caraș-Severin County to the west, Gorj County to the north-east, and Dolj County to the south-east. Between these limits, there is an area of 493,289 ha, i.e. 2.1% of the country's area (Fig. 1).

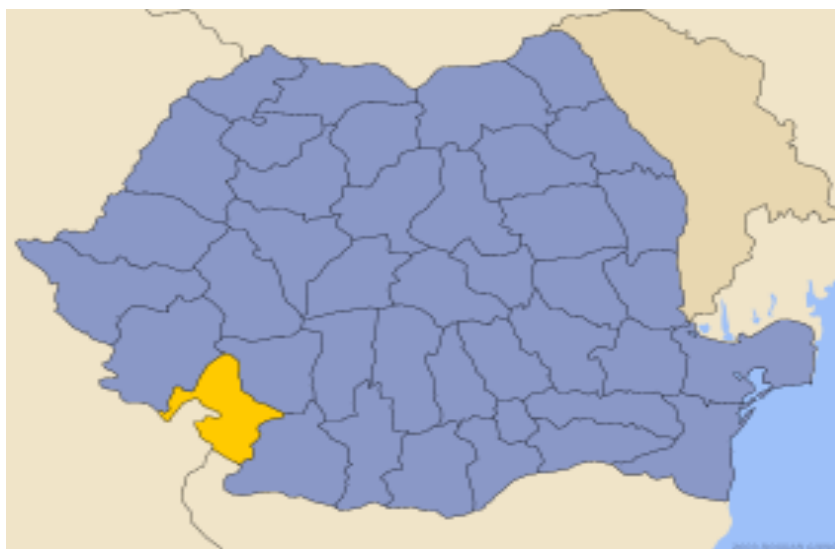


Fig. 1. Location of Mehedinți County on Romanian territory

From the point of view of administrative-territorial organization, the county consists of 2 municipalities (Drobeta-Turnu Severin and Orșova), 3 cities, 61 communes, and 344 villages.

Informational Geographic Systems, together with GPS technology, have managed to provide extremely accurate information on the location, relief,

hydrography, and biodiversity of a particular geographical area.

The relief of the county consisting of mountains, plateaus and plains has the form of an amphitheatre arranged in steps that descends from north-northwest to south-southeast (Fig. 2).

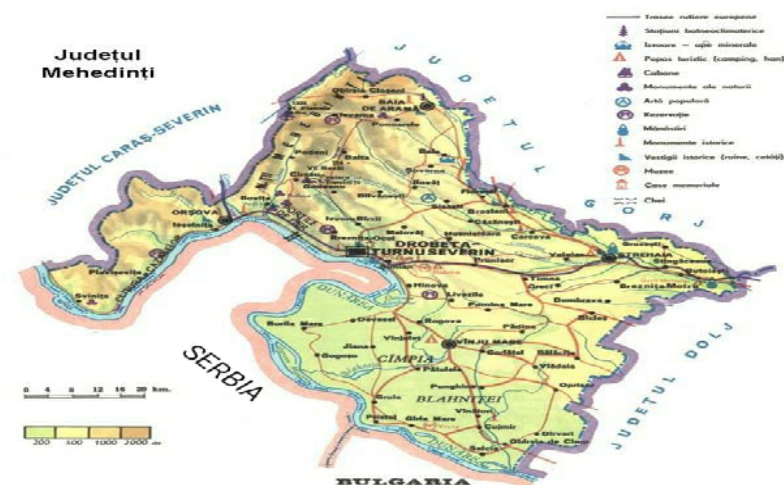


Fig. 2. Relief of Mehedinți County

Analysing the map, it can be seen that the highest step of the relief located in the north-west is made up of the Mountains of Mehedinți and Cernei, the middle step comprises the Mehedinți plateau, the Motrului Hills and the high plain of Bălăcița, and the lowest step, the Blahnița Plain is made up largely of the Danube terraces and the wide valleys of Drincei and Blahnița. The presence of depressions such as Baia de Aramă, Comănești-Halânga, of wide valleys and sub-Carpathian depression of Topolnița provide living and circulation conditions, including in the high areas of the county.

The variety of relief forms ensures a balanced structure of the use of the county's surface.

The most important watercourse is the Danube River, which represents the natural border of the county for a length of 192 km.

From the point of view of administrative-territorial organization, the county consists of 2 municipalities (Drobeta-Turnu Severin and Orșova), 3 cities (Baia de Aramă, Strehaia, and Vânu Mare), 61 communes, and 344 villages (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Administrative-territorial organization and hydrology of Mehedinți County

The climate of Mehedinți County is temperate continental with Mediterranean influences in the area of the Danube Gorges and Drobeta-Turnu Severin.

Conclusions

International Geographic Systems allow the making of cartographic representations related to the location, relief, and administrative-territorial organization of Mehedinți County.

Mehedinți County has an area of 493,289 ha, which represents 2.1% of the area of our country.

It has a varied relief consisting of mountains, plateaus, and plains, and has the form of an amphitheatre arranged in steps.

On the territory of Mehedinți County, there are 2 municipalities, 3 cities, 61 communes, and 344 villages.

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