

Project Application

Applicant: Andrei Mihai Gruber
Application date: July/August 2007
Project name: Backpacker's Guest-house at Rosia Montana

Contact Address:

Andrei Mihai Gruber
Principala Street No. 229
Rosia Montana 517615
Alba County
Romania

Phone and fax numbers; e-mail address:

Tel/fax: +40 (0) 258 783 140
Mobile: +40 (0) 744 363 210
E-mail: andreibizzy@yahoo.com

Background and project justification:

Andrei Gruber's family owns a large L-shaped town house at Rosia Montana. Part of it, consisting of two large rooms, has been unused for many years. Andrei plans to turn this into a guest-house for backpackers. A private donation of 1,000 Euro in June 2007 enabled Andrei to start his project by carrying out the main consolidation and building work in one of the rooms; including electricity and water piping. The work is ongoing and this proposal aims to ensure the project's continuation and implementation.

Andrei is 22 years old and has considerable knowledge of the area's history and archaeology. He decided to open a backpacker's guest-house because to him this is a viable development opportunity which can be complemented by his guiding tourists around the area's mountains and archaeological vestiges. He is an active member of Alburnus Maior and over the years he has helped organize several of the association's events, including the sculptor's symposium in summer 2006.

At the moment there exist no accredited accommodation facilities for holiday makers at Rosia Montana. However, the influx of visitors is increasing every year, especially during the summer season. This is due mainly to the publicity around the ongoing struggle against Europe's largest goldmine proposal (see www.rosiamontana.org), as well as due to the Roman mine galleries located in the mining museum at Rosia Montana. The latter attract a figure of around 10,000 visitors each summer. Another event that draws a high number of visitors to Rosia Montana is the FanFest Festival ('Hay' Fest - see www.fanfest.ro), which had around 15,000 participants in August 2006. Although the main tourist season starts in May and ends in September, Rosia Montana is visited throughout the year by journalists, professionals and individuals interested to learn about the mine proposal and the Save Rosia Montana campaign. Until now visitors looking for accommodation have had to be re-directed to the nearby towns of Abrud, Campeni and even Alba-Iulia. This is inconvenient and time-consuming and it means that a key income stream that could support the economic development of Rosia Montana is being lost. There is currently one other project for a guest-house, but it is geared towards accommodating families rather than backpackers and mountaineers.

Importantly, in the context of the mining company's advertisements that claim that the gold mine proposal at Rosia Montana is the only possible economic solution for the area, Andrei

wants to set a concrete example of alternative development that could be followed by other locals and young people.

Project dates: July/August 2007 – November 2008

Project Summary:

Andrei's planned backpackers' guest-house will have a separate entrance and will be semi-detached from Andrei's main family house. It is accessed from Rosia Montana's main road via a small patio. Behind the house there is a garden with a river along which there is a mountain path leading to the so-called Carnic Massif, one of Rosia Montana's main hiking and tourist attractions. The house is situated between Rosia Montana's historic centre and the mine museum with the Roman galleries, both of which are a five minute walk. Four cars can park behind the house.

The guest-house is being designed to receive a maximum of 6 guests at the same time. It has two big rooms, one room to accommodate 3 bunk beds, a closet and an oven. The other room and entrance will be divided into two. One third of it will become a bathroom with a shower, basin and toilet. The remaining space will be the main reception area with a kitchenette and a seating area. The backyard garden will serve as an alternative eating and living area.

Hiking tourism in rural Romanian mountain areas is becoming more and more fashionable amongst Romanians and foreigners alike. The Apuseni Mountains, which is where Rosia Montana is located, are part of the Carpathian Mountain Chain, and rural tourism has become a main income source for this area. There exist several outstanding tourist attractions which can be reached via hiking expeditions lasting from 2 to 5 days (these include the Rameti Monastery¹, the Cave of Scarisoara², and Remetea/ Alba). In light of the increasing tourist influx both at Rosia Montana and in adjacent areas, the backpacker's guest-house could in the long term attract between 500 -700 guests per year (main season June-September, Easter & New Year holidays).

Andrei's guest-house is located on Rosia Montana's main road which given the rural character of the area is quiet, and at the same time close to the village centre and the main tourist circuits. The house is also close to the Plateau where the FanFest Festival is taking place every year and very close to Rosia Montana's Mining Museum and artificial lakes called 'tauri'. A hiking trail for Rosia Montana entitled 'The Golden Way' has already been implemented by Alburnus Maior (see www.drumulaurului.ro) and the NGO is currently linking the Golden Way with the Limestone Trail (see <http://calcar.cheile-rimetului.ro/>) to offer more routes. Alburnus Maior is currently also financially supporting 2 young men from Rosia Montana to become certified mountain guides. They will complete their course in 6 months time, after which they are ready to guide mountaineers and hikers including Andrei's guests.

Once Andrei's guest-house is ready, it will have its own website, both in English and in Romanian, advertising its services, surroundings, trekking routes, contact details, etc. It will also be advertised via tourist websites specializing in backpacking, and mountain trekking, and through guide books such as Lonely Planet and the Rough Guides. This service will be provided free of charge by volunteers of the Save Rosia Montana campaign.

Given the efforts and initiatives described above, Andrei's hope and vision is that his future guest-house will integrate into a larger process of community development focused on sustainable use of local natural, cultural and economic resources. To this end, Andrei is ensuring that all labor as well as much material as possible is locally sourced.

¹ http://alpinet.org/main/poteci/puncte_ro_t_manastirea-rameti_id_3226.html

² http://www.welcometoromania.ro/Apuseni/Apuseni_Pestera_Scarisoara_e.htm

Budget

Room 1 – Bed Room

Finishing Consolidation Works/ Stabilizing walls and floors	500 Euro
Wooden Flooring, Wall Seal and Color	440 Euro
Bunk-beds 3 @ 100 Euro	300 Euro
Matresses 6 @ 65 Euros	390 Euro
Cloth Closet with 6 compartments	120 Euro
Oven (Construction and Labour)	380 Euro
Spot Lamp	10 Euro

Labor costs for the remaining works of Room 1 are covered by the initial 1,000 Euro grant

Room 2 - Reception, Bathroom and Kitchenette

Consolidation works/ Stabilizing walls and floors	1500 Euro
Wooden Flooring, Wall Seal and Colour (except Bathroom)	310 Euro

Bathroom	
Tiles, shower cabin, toilet, hand-wash basin, taps etc.	700 Euro
Canalisation	100 Euro
Spot Lamp and Basin Lamp	18 Euro

Kitchenette	
Kitchen Basin	28 Euro
Cooker with Oven (Gas)	165 Euro
Wooden table, 2 wooden benches, storing shelves	250 Euro
Basic Kitchen Equipment (plates, glasses, cutlery, pans)	60 Euro
Spot Lamp x 2	20 Euro

Entrance and Hall Way	
Line of coat hooks and low table	
Outdoor Lamp	20 Euro
Entrance Door/ Massif Wood	140 Euro

<u>Labour costs for Room 2</u>	<u>500 Euro</u>
Total	5951 Euro

Bank Details

Account Holder: Andrei Alexandru **Gruber**
Bank Name: Banca Comerciala Romana (BCR)
Address: Piata Avram Iancu Nr.8
Campeni
Alba County
Romania.

Swift Code: RNCB ROBU
IBAN account details for disbursements in Euro: RO64RNCB0008035331540001
IBAN account details for disbursements in USD: RO10RNCB0008035331540003
IBAN account details for disbursements in ROL: RO37RNCB0008035331540002