

## Pilot Project Guesthouse at Rosia Montana

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### Background and project justification

Together with his family, Eugen David started to work on his house in order to turn it into a guest house since 2004. The house is located on his farm, approximately 50 meters away from his main house.

The reason why the family decided to work on the guest house is that both Eugen and his wife Maria quitted their jobs in the mining sector and oriented towards tourism and farming as being more reliable and long-term sources of income for their family. Another reason why Eugen wants to see this project going ahead is that at the moment there are no accredited accommodation facilities for guests at Rosia Montana. However, the visitors' inflow at Rosia Montana is increasing every year, especially during the summer season. This is due mainly to the publicity around the ongoing struggle in the community against the goldmine proposal, as well as due to the Roman mine galleries located in the Rosia Montana mining museum. The latter attract a figure of around 10000 visitors each summer. Another event that attracts a high number of visitors at Rosia Montana is the Fanfest Festival (please see [www.fanfest.ro](http://www.fanfest.ro)) which in summer 2006 attracted 15000 participants and it's now at its fourth edition. Although the main touristic season starts in May and ends in September, Rosia Montana is visited throughout the year by journalists, professionals, personalities interested to find out about the mine proposal and about the Save Rosia Montana campaign. Until now Alburnus Maior had to and still has to redirect these people for accommodation in the nearby towns of Abrud, Campeni and even Alba-Iulia, which is inconvenient and time-consuming but importantly it does not contribute to Rosia Montana's economic development.

Importantly, in the context of the mining company's advertisements that claim that their gold mine proposal at Rosia Montana is the only possible economic solution for the area, Mr. Eugen David wants to give a concrete example of an alternative development that could be followed by other local families.

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Project dates: July 2007 – November 2008

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### Project Summary:

The guest house is designed to receive a maximum of 20 guests at once. The house has two big rooms (with 3 beds each) at the first floor that would serve mainly to welcome families. At the second floor there are other 2 big rooms (5 to 7 beds) and a smaller room (3 to 4 beds) that would work mainly in a youth hostel regime for backpackers and younger people. Both levels are designed to have separate bathrooms and toilets. The house has its own central heating (wood) system and radiators. Guests would have the possibility to cook meals, as the house has a kitchen and a dining room. The main hall is designed to be equipped with sofas, a TV, a big coffee table where people can meet, read, possibly hold small-scale seminars, round-table discussions, etc. In Romania during the summer season, tourism in rural mountain communities has become more and more fashionable for families who like to rent a whole house or part for it for a 6-10 days stay.

The guest house at Rosia Montana also intends to offer this possibility, with these families being able to choose whether to have the meals served or to cook for themselves (as there are many local products that could be bought from local families like vegetables, milk, cheese, meat, etc). Rough estimations on the long-term are that the guest house would attract between 1000-1200 guests/ year (summer season June-September + the winter and Easter holidays).

In order to be able to officially open the guest house, Eugen needs to apply for special permits both from the competent authorities for Tourism and management and from the sanitary protection authorities. In order to do that, one needs to take a special training course at the end of which one gets a diploma of accreditation. Eugen's wife Maria, who by profession is a certified cook, is since three months attending such training courses in the village of Saschiz, near the town of Sighisoara. This course is organized by the Adept Foundation (for details please see <http://www.fundatia-adept.org/html/training.htm>). Maria is covering all costs for this training session from personal savings.

Eugen's guest house is located in a quiet and rural environment but still close to the village centre and close to main tourist circuits. The house is also very close to the Plateau where the Fanfest Festival is taking place every year and also very close to Rosia Montana's Mining Museum and artificial lakes called 'tauri'. A touristic promotion project for Rosia Montana entitled 'The Golden Way' has already been developed and implemented by Alburnus Maior (please see [www.drumulaurului.ro](http://www.drumulaurului.ro)). In parallel, Alburnus Maior is currently implementing a project that trains two young people from Rosia Montana to become accredited tourist guides. The training takes place in the commune of Rametea, not far away from Rosia Montana and is due to end in autumn this year. It is organized by one of Alburnus Maior's partners called 'Center for Protected Areas and Sustainable Development Bihor' (for details please see <http://www.donatiionline.ro/?ong=26&lang=EN>). At the end of it, two young people from Rosia Montana will be accredited tourists guides and this will give Eugen the opportunity to offer his guests a more diverse as well as personalized touristic program and activities at Rosia Montana. Other members of Alburnus Maior are at the moment developing small-scale business too, for example opening a bike-renting center, other guest houses, a restaurant etc. Alburnus Maior is equally working on a project to restore a patrimonial house and turn it into a tourist information center. Eugen's pilot project will encourage all these other efforts which once realized will complement and carry each other. To give but one example of how this could work: Eugen's neighbor and brother-in-law, Vasile is also working to open an accredited guest house but this project is not as advanced as Eugen's. Guests whom Eugen could not absorb in a weekend, for example, could be redirected to Vasile, as such generating start-up funding for him to be able to advance in his project.

Once Eugen's guest house is finished, it will have its own website, both in English and in Romanian, advertising the services, surroundings, contact details, etc.

Given the efforts and initiatives described above, Eugen's hope and vision is that his future guest house will integrate into a larger and natural process of community development focused on sustainable use of local natural, cultural and economic resources.

Until now all funds for the guest house were covered from Eugen and Maria's personal savings. The remaining necessary funds to finish the guest house are as follows:

- Glass for the doors (80-90 square meters x 200.000 square meters)	3000 ron
- Labor costs for Bathroom and kitchen (2 bathrooms and 1 kitchen)	3000 ron
- Roofing (200 square meters)	3000 ron
- Labor costs for roofing	6000 ron
- Interior walling (750 square meters)	3400 ron
- Central heater (wood) system and radiators	1400 ron
<b>Total</b>	<b>27000 ron</b>

27000 RON = 11,021.31 USD



