

VATRA DORNE, ROMANIA



European Go Congress

Proposal for 2021



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An Overview

Vatra Dornei



Previously known as Pearl of Bucovina, Vatra Dornei still keeps its importance in the region, representing the bond between Ardeal and Moldova regions and the perfect escape for active tourism practice, either spa or cultural, no matter of the season.

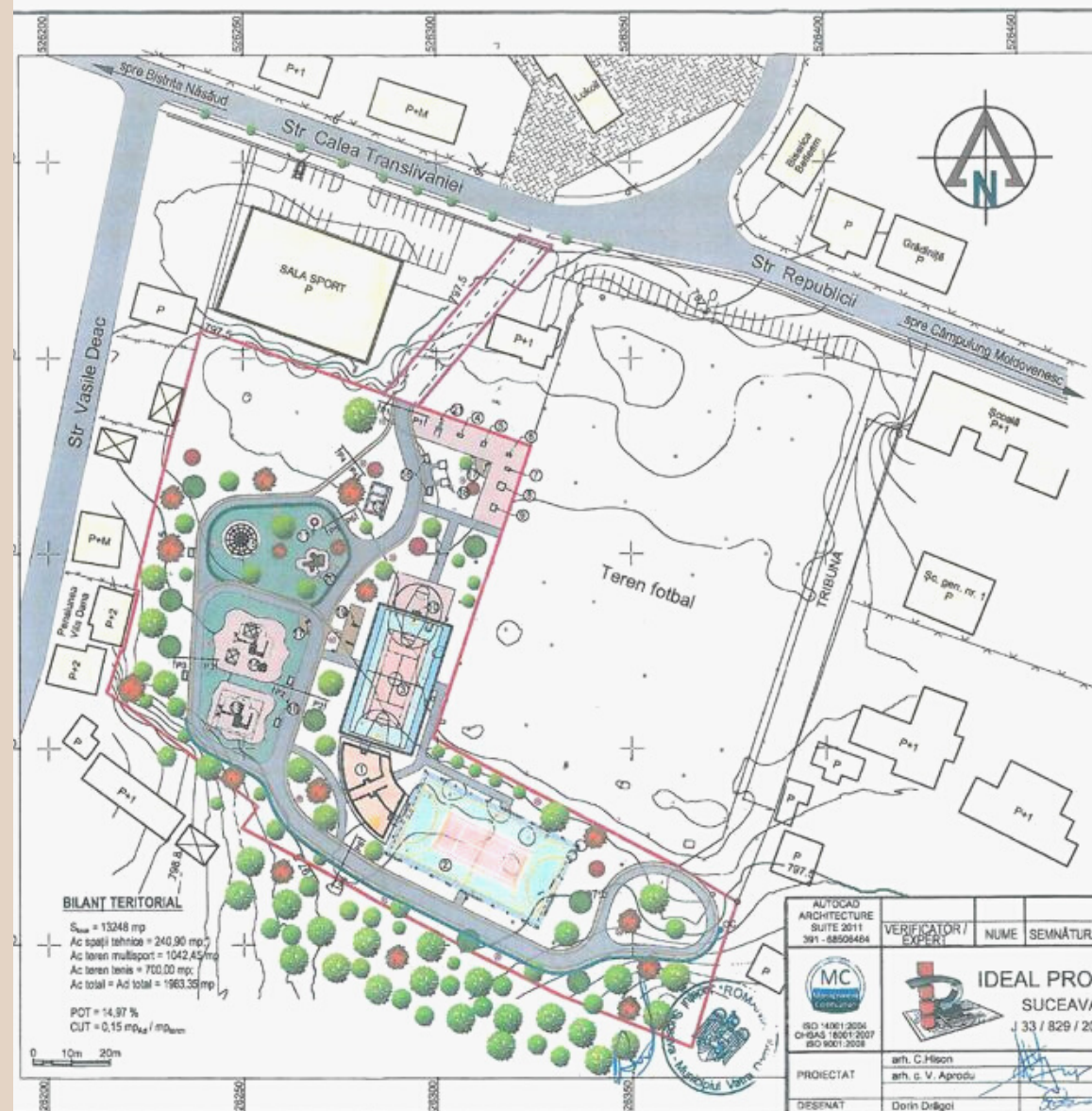
Situated at an altitude of 802 meters, in a depression passage of the Oriental Carpathians, the Vatra Dornei resort town attained its fame as a curative location in the second half of the 18th century, when the mineral waters of this former Austrian Empire province (Vatra Dornei-Candreni-Saru Dornei) landed on the emperor's dining table in Vienna. Vatra Dornei has always been a leading attraction spot, considering the beautiful landscape, as well as the exceptional healing properties of the waters that have gradually built up a name for the town, as one of the first rate balneal resorts in Romania.

Surrounded by the peaks of the Giumalau (north), Suhard (north-west) and Calimani (south) Mountains, Vatra Dornei is the starting point for hiking trails on three significant peaks: Suhard, Giumalău – Rarău, Călimani and Bistriței.

Video presentation of Vatra Dornei:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oewZAGsf_HA

EC Venue

The most important aspect that defines a successful congress is providing the environment for congress participants to meet and socialize. This is the central idea in our proposal. The proposed venue is presently under construction, scheduled to finish latest at the end of 2020. This will be an outdoor entertainment and relaxation complex with tennis and basketball fields, fitness and bike rental and trail facilities, green areas and trees. (see the annexed map)



Main playing hall

The main playing hall will be the sports hall with a size of 800 mp2. While there is nothing special about it, it comes with an even larger space adjacent to it . There we plan to set up a large terrace where people can analyze their games, have drinks , grills and snacks , play board games , socialize.

This creates the opportunity for some players to play their games outside, something that we know from experience that is coveted by a large number of players and can be proposed as a special option during this congress. There is no restriction such as a certain closing time, this will allow participants to hang out until late in the night in this spot.

The place will be very children and family friendly, with a great setup to allow children to run around in a safe environment.

Tents for pro analysis will be set up on the grass, in a similar fashion to Bonn and other congresses.

The entire setup comes as a part of the local administration support , totally free of charge. This means that a large budget that normally would be allocated to paying the playing halls can now be redirected to ensure that everything about the place is friendly, welcoming and efficient.

Also this allows us to take into consideration setting up a large tent on the football field. This will provide organizers with space for a multitude of tasks, deposit of materials , extra playing halls. This can be done in case the number of participants reaches a certain level, which in turn provides additional budget due to congress fees.

Romania is presently one of the countries with the best internet infrastructure in the world. A strong internet connection will be provided at the playing venue with special dedicated line for organizers and wi-fi connection for participants.

To summarize, this space, estimated at around 13000 mp2 , will be the main activities hub and will keep the congress participants closely together. A big part of the hotels, villas and pensions reserved for congress accommodation are at walking distance of this venue, increasing the feeling of comfort and efficiency.

Playing halls

Playing halls

Additional venues :

City hall building , Hall of mirrors – a very special place to hold the AGM

House of Culture – with a stage and about 300 seats, it will be the venue used for festivities.
Additionally it provides rooms for pro lectures and workshops.

Hotel Bradul/Calimani – a few conference rooms that can be used for lectures and other activities

Accommodation

Vatra Dornei is a highly sought touristic spot with a plethora of hotels, pensions, villas and other accommodation facilities. Most of them are in walking distance of the planned venue.

There are offers for any wallet size. Check bellow some of our recommended locations:



- Hotel Dorna
- Villa Seva
- Kaban
- Ellemar



- Bradul
- Casa
Bucovineana
- Vila Class



- Hotel Intus
- camping

Important remark: the EC takes place during high peak season. It will be important that participants reserve their accommodation way in advance.

For an authentic experience in Tara Dornelor you can stop in the rural area where there are 2-4 daisy pensions/guesthouses, that provide a high level of comfortability: from the luxury accommodation places with restaurant, conference room, swimming pool, sauna to rustic pension that function in an agrotourism way, where you can spend your time with the guest and will taste the delicious dishes prepared out of fresh and healthy products from their households. The offer is supplied by the accommodation choices from Vatra Dornei town: from one star to four stars pensions/guesthouses, hotels, villas, camping facilities, etc. that offer the possibility of meeting in conference rooms.

Prices



- 25 – 40 Eur/pers/night



- 20 – 25 Eur/pers/night



- 10 – 20 Eur/pers/night



Meals

In the pensions or the restaurants in the area you can indulge yourself in our specific products, such as: smoked trout in fir branches, “sarmale”, Bucovina stew, Radauti sour soup, different dishes with boletus and golden chanterelle mushrooms, “bulz”, “balmos”, “tocinei” and cream, “poale-n brau” pies, pouched eggs in cream, tomato rolls on stove and many other “goodies”.

There are plenty of options for eating in the town in under 10 minutes’ walk.

Additionally, we will recommend some restaurants that we have worked with in the past which provide good services and reasonable prices:

- *Hotel Dorna*
- *Casa Bucovineana*
- *Les Amis*
- *Hotel Carol*



Important remark: since the town can become very crowded at this time of the year we strongly recommend reserving your meals in advance.

Travel

VATRA DORNEI, ROMANIA

Via Air

*Cluj
*Bucharest
Sibiu
Suceava
Iasi

Personalized shuttle buses from main airports to Vatra Dornei

Via Train

Bucharest (sleeping car *)
Timisoara (sleeping car *)
Cluj
Suceava
Iasi

Via Bus

Regular bus connection are available
Upon request, a special bus arrangement can be provided from Budapest or Vienna airports

*RECOMMENDED



ENTERTAINMENT AND TOURISM OPTIONS:



Recreation and leisure
Health and wellness
Life in the countryside



Active Tourism

- Climbing and Mountaineering
- NORDIK - WALKING
- PAINT BALL
- Via ferrata and Tyrolean
- mountain biking
- off-road
- easy rafting

Recreation and leisure

If you wish to relax and escape daily tension, Vatra Dornei welcomes you with pure ozone and the tranquillity of a small mountain town. You will enjoy taking long walks in the surrounding areas and in the town park where you will marvel at the jocund squirrels and quench your thirst with the mineral waters from the spring. Walking or hiking can be substituted by funicular ride up to Diecilor Peak, where you can relish in the bird's eye view of the town. The nearby Calimani National Park offers another picturesque alternative of hiking and unwinding in nature. The mountain meadows are replete with herbs and flowers whose colours and scent will delight your senses. For those very active tourists we recommend the programme "Horseback riding for a day in Calimani", under the supervision of a park representative. If you want to do something new, you could have a night out on the town, clubbing or going to a pub, or you could attend one of the numerous festivals organised in Vatra Dornei: the folklore festival, the wild berries festival, the mountain peony festival, the winter festival, Dorna Xtrem and many others.

Health and wellness

The balneal resort of Vatra Dornei is endowed with four modern treatment facilities, with carbonated water baths, mud packs, hydrotherapy, exercise room for kinetic therapy. There are 6 springs for internal treatment and over 30 springs for external treatment (carbonated, bicarbonate, calcic, chalybeate, saline, low sulphur, oligometallic, athermal, etc). The renowned mud of Poiana Stampei not only benefits your health, but it also relaxes the body and cleanses your skin. The balneal facility also welcomes wellness enthusiasts who can enjoy a wide range of services including massage, mud packs and mineral water baths.

Active tourism

Vatra Dornei is the ideal place for active people who wish to discover nature. Be it winter or summer, Vatra Dornei is the place to be. In summer, visitors enjoy Nordic walking, mountain trips – leisure tours to panorama spots, paragliding, mountain biking, river rafting, horseback riding. The nature discovery guided tours can reveal a side of nature you have never imagined before.

Life in the countryside

The Dorna depression is replete with traditional households, many of which have turned into rural tourism lodges and boarding houses. You can spend a holiday amidst nature, surrounded by mountains and forests, while experiencing the daily routine of a traditional mountain family. You will enjoy the traditional homemade food, prepared from natural ingredients and mineral spring water.

Sponsorship Options

VATRA DORNEI, ROMANIA

Full support from local administration led by the city hall

Traditional relationship established with local institutions through local organizers of the Winter Go Festival

As a start-up sponsorship, the city hall supports costs for:

- main playing hall, festivities hall in the House of Culture
- organization of AGM at the Halls of Mirrors, inside the city hall building,
- strong internet connection provided in all locations relevant to the congress,
- free access to the entertainment park, besides the main playing location

Any other unforeseen challenges will also have the full support of the local administration.

Besides this we can expect financial support as well from the city hall and local companies.

TEAM

ORGANISATIONAL EXPERIENCE

verified infrastructure and team due to 5 years of experience in organizing the Winter Go Festival – international event with approx 300 participants

LOCAL SUPPORT

excellent cooperation with the City Hall administration and other local companies

ROMANIAN GO FEDERATION

FRGO is presently led by a reliable team that will spare no efforts in improving our performance with the Sibiu 2014 Congress

A summary of our proposal

STRONG POINTS

- excellent temperature , estimated at an average of 25-27 degrees
- a spot surrounded by nature
- great local administration support
- strong internet
- Go friendly town, you can play Go or analyze games while eating and drinking at most terraces/restaurants
- very cheap prices compared to most of previous congresses, draft beer costs 1-2 Eur
- experienced organizers
- verified infrastructure due to 5 years of experience in organizing the Winter Go Festival
- opportunities to socialize as in best congresses- large variety of entertainment and relaxation options, like renting bicycles to explore the surrounding hills and mountains, unless you prefer horseback riding.

WEAK POINTS

- harder to reach than European capital cities, nevertheless comparable to many other previous congresses
- not as popular touristic spot as some World famous cities or locations
- Romania's rather unstable political situation, nevertheless a very safe country