

ROMANIA'S AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS DURING TRANSITION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE WEST REGION

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with 1 Fig. and 7 Tab. in the text

CONTENTS

<i>Zusammenfassung</i>	241
<i>Summary</i>	242
1 Introduction	242
2 Historical summary	243
3 Airlines during transition	246
4 Romanian airports during transition	254
5 The case of the West Region and its cross-border relations	266
6 Conclusion	273
7 Bibliography	274

Zusammenfassung

Die Fluggesellschaften und Flughäfen Rumäniens unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Westregion

Der Flugverkehr war in den letzten Jahren eine der dynamischsten Branchen der rumänischen Wirtschaft. Nach langsamen Fortschritten in den 1990ern mit vielen Jahren negativen Wachstums haben die Jahre relativer Prosperität im Vorlauf des EU-Beitritts 2007 und das Angebot an Spartarifen durch Low-cost Airlines die Passagierzahlen in die Höhe getrieben.

Der Artikel bietet zunächst eine Einführung in die rumänische Luftfahrt und setzt mit einem Überblick über die Entwicklung von Fluggesellschaften und Flughäfen fort. Rumänien hat beachtliche Erfolge beim Aufbau erfolgreicher privater Fluggesellschaften

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did not require any significant nationalisation, but rather the complete rebuilding of war-damaged installations.

However, the competitive ethos of the EU is now securing a level playing field for private airlines to challenge the established 'flag carriers'. In this context Romania has spawned an interesting range of new projects, each of which has sought its own 'niche' in the market with encouraging results during the post-2000 years of sustained economic growth. Indeed, at one stage the Romanian 'flag carrier' was poised to withdraw from internal flights but had the re-enter the market when the private operator failed.

Air passengers in Romania increased by 5.49 millions in 2008 over 2005, encouraged by growing capacity nationally and regionally and affordable fares offered by the low-cost carriers. Airport development has also been impressive, with expansion in the capital is being matched by the leading regional airports which have ambitious plans to develop as integral parts of their respective cities and regional centres. And at the same time cross-border movements are creating an even more complex picture of a highly competitive business.

Thus, Romanian low-cost carriers are now engaged in a rapidly-expanding business that western companies are keen to contest as the new EU member states are seen as a new frontier. In this endeavour, the airlines will become increasingly locked in combat as alliances are forged with an expanding airport network reflecting the ambitions of the country's emerging regional centres.

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