



# **Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) trips – Some insights & Importance for Romania**

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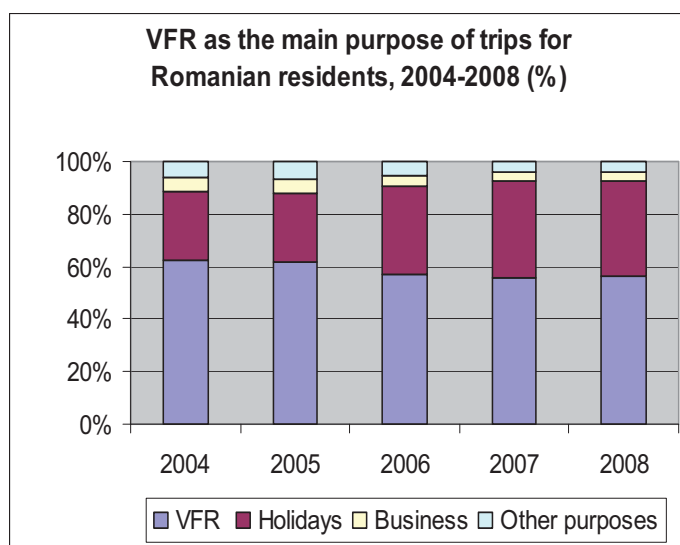
## General considerations

- An important purpose of trip for many people (one of the 8 categories of *personal purpose* – IRTS para. 3.17.)
- *Apparently* low/(er) impact on tourism expenditure
- Strongly related to the private accommodation (unpaid) – Accommodation at Friends and Relatives (AFR) category / ( Accommodation provided by households) category
- It involves expenditures made by others for the benefit of visitors - a special issue for statistical measurement
- Problem: Lack of acknowledgment among people to consider VFR trips as tourism!

## VFR trips – Importance for Romania

National tourism: domestic + outbound

VFR is overwhelmingly dominate the distribution of trips by purpose in the period 2004-2008

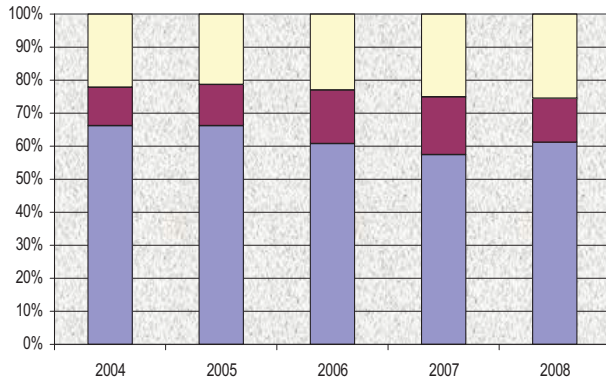


Source: National Institute of Statistics, ACTR survey  
Note: data based on number of trips (domestic+outbound) detailed by purposes

## VFR trips – Importance for Romania

National tourism: domestic + outbound (cont.)

Accommodation at friends and relatives - the main type of accommodation used by Romanian residents, 2004-2008 (%)



Accommodation at Friends and Relatives (AFR) seems to be the most popular option for Romanian residents

Source: National Institute of Statistics, ACTR survey

Note: data based on number of overnight stays ( holiday and bussiness trips only)

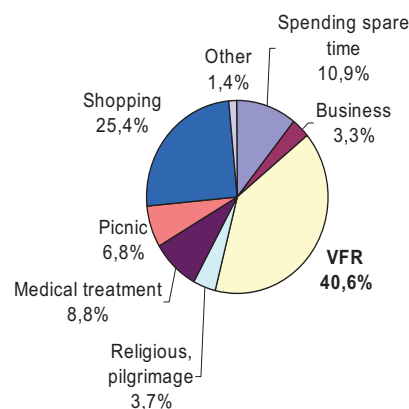
\* - second homes and private dwellings with rent

## VFR trips – Importance for Romania

National tourism: domestic + outbound (cont.)

Also in case of **same-day trips**, VFR is the main purpose of Romanian residents undertaking trips without overnight stays

Number of same-day trips in Romania\* by purposes, first semester 2009



\* - only domestic and outbound same-day trips

Source: Tour\_SDT survey, 2009



## VFR trips – Importance for Romania

### Inbound tourism

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- The importance of ***Accommodation provided by households to nonresidents*** in Romania – Some figures for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2009 (Source: TOUR\_SDT survey):
  - 816,076 nonresident tourists (compared with 584,011 arrivals in collective accommodation establishments!)
  - 6,072,254 overnight stays (compared with 1,223,286 overnight stays in collective accommodation establishments)
  - Main countries of origin: Italy (26.3%), Spain (21.2%), Hungary (13.5%), Germany (13.1%) and France (4.5%)
  - Services offered by households:
    - Accommodation (100%)
    - F&B (96.1%)
    - Transport (30.4%)
    - Other services (43.3%)



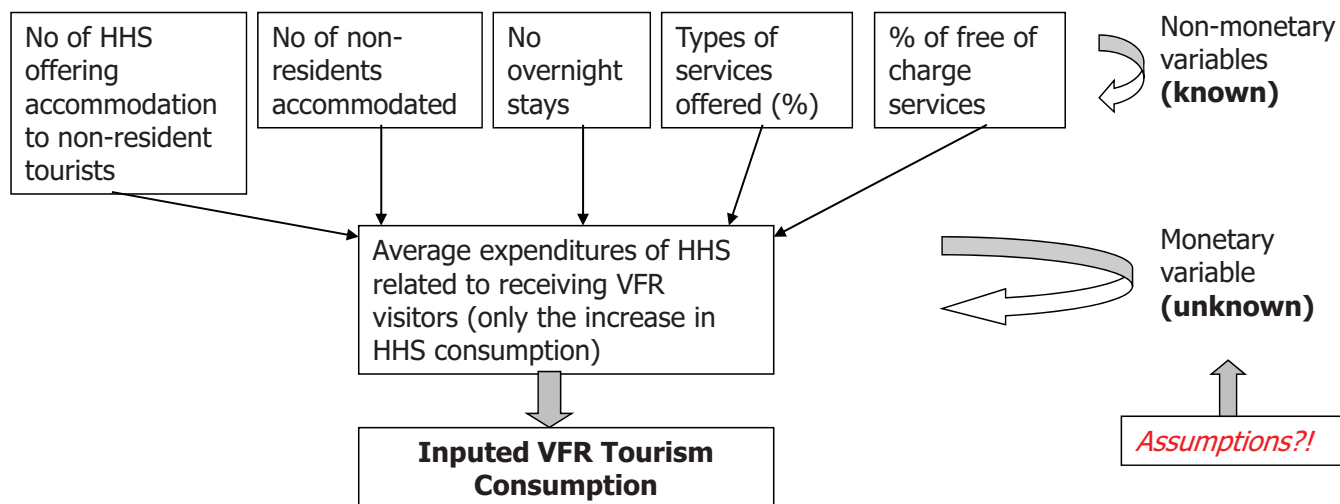
## TSA & VFR

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- Not all the *VFR related consumption* is included in TSA:
  - Some “*VFR related consumption*” are excluded from *tourism consumption* concept - transport services, preparation of meals for own members of the household (see 2008 TSA:RMF, para. 2.34.)
  - But some could be included: *Housing services provided to visitors within the main dwelling* (but only in the case of the increase in the consumption of the household) (see 2008 TSA:RMF, para. 2.36.)
- SNA & BoP principles to be applied!!
- However, **some imputations** could be calculated (but these **should be treated separately** not to harm the international comparability of data)

## TSA & VFR (cont.)

- Is it possible to calculate a "VFR imputed tourism consumption" for Romania?
  - Yes, at least partly for inbound tourism... (based on TOUR\_SDT survey, *Accommodation provided to non-residents module*)



## Conclusions

VFR trips represent:

- ✓ a great "amount of hidden tourism"\*
- ✓ very important tourism segment for Romania
- ✓ challenge to meet for a reliable measurement of tourism activity

In the future a particular attention should be pay to:

- Tourism household surveys (including the case of AFR for residents also)
- Estimation of the "imputed consumption" associate to VFR as an extention to TSA:RMF framework

Towards a VFR-TSA (as a functional extention) similar to TSA for business tourism ?!

\* - for more information please see **Cristi Frenț** *Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) trips –understanding their economic importance within the TSA*, supporting paper at the 8th International Forum on Tourism Statistics, Cáceres, Spain, 14-16 November 2006



Thank you for your attention!



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*Questions are welcome*

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