

The Unexploited Balneary Potential of Oglinzi Baths

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Abstract

Oglinzi Baths are situated in the North-Eastern part of Romania, at the intersection of Moldavian's Subcarpathians and Moldavian Plateau, at the edge of Culmea Pleşului hill, in a small depression called Poiana Dăscăliței, at an altitude of 480 meters. In general, this region enjoys a temperate-continental, gentle and recreational climate due to the shelter from cold air currents. As it is located 45 kilometers away from Piatra Neamț and only 3 kilometers from Târgu Neamț, Oglinzi Baths can be easily accessed from different locations due to a strategic position at the crossing of two national roads. More than 100 years ago, people interested in the therapeutic effects of mineral waters from Oglinzi, have begun to build here the first spa facilities. It is proven that the foundations of Oglinzi resort were made by Carol I. Petru Poni, the founder of Romanian school of Chemistry, made here analyses that have once again highlighted the exceptional qualities of waters from Oglinzi. The conclusion show that mineral waters, by composition, are part of the chlorinated mineral water, sodium and bromate class, similar to the mineral waters of the famous European resorts Reichenhall (Bavaria), Ischl (Austria) and Hall (Tirol). The black and greasy mud contained, besides salts and iron, phosphates as organic substances. According to the chemical composition of the waters and curative effects, the Oglinzi resort occupies the 5th place in Europe, being recommended for the treatment of rheumatism, spleen and liver inflammation, hemorrhoids, skin diseases and chronic diseases of women. Nowadays, Oglinzi Baths resort can only offer basic tourist services (accommodation and dining), functioning as school camp during the summer period.

Rezumat

Băile Oglinzi sunt situate în partea nord-estică a României, la intersecția dintre Subcarpații Moldovei și Podișul Moldovei, la marginea dealului Culmea Pleşului, într-o mică depresiune ce poartă numele de Poiana Dăscăliței, la o altitudine de 480 de metri. În general, această regiune beneficiază de un climat temperat-continental, blând și recreativ datorită adăpostului față de curenții reci de aer. Întrucât se află la 45 kilometri de Piatra Neamț și la doar 3 kilometri depărtare de Târgu Neamț, Băile Oglinzi pot fi accesate ușor din diferite locații datorită poziției strategice, la intersecția a două drumuri naționale. Acum peste 100 de ani, oamenii interesați de efectele terapeutice ale apelor minerale de la Oglinzi, au ridicat aici primele amenajări balneare. Există dovezi că bazele stațiunii Oglinzi au fost puse de către Carol I. Petru Poni, întemeietorul școlii românești de chimie, a făcut analize aici care au pus încă o dată în evidență calitățile de excepție ale apelor de la Oglinzi. Concluzia a arătat faptul că apele minerale, după compoziție, fac parte din clasa apelor minerale clorurate, sodice și bromurate, asemănătoare apelor minerale din renumitele stațiuni balneare europene de la Reichenhall (Bavaria), Ischl (Austria) și Hall (Tirol).

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Nămolul negru și unsuros conține, pe lângă substanțe saline și fier, fosfați ca și substanțe organice. După compoziția chimică a apelor și a efectelor curative, stațiunea Oglinzi ocupa locul 5 în Europa, fiind recomandată pentru tratamentul reumatismului, al inflamațiilor splinei și ficatului, al hemoroizilor, al unor boli de piele și al unor boli cronice la femei. În zilele noastre, stațiunea Băile Oglinzi poate oferi doar servicii turistice de bază (cazare și masă), fiind utilizată ca tabără școlară pe timpul verii.

Keywords: Oglinzi Baths, resort, Carol I, 5th place, abandoned.

1. Introduction

Today, Romania has half of the balneary resorts it had in 1938. More than 25 former small resorts of local interest from Romania are abandoned and so, they are not functioning anymore. Their renovation would cost over 150 million euros, money that local authorities do not have, but hope to obtain them from European funds and from the budget of Ministry of Tourism.

For the Romanian balneary sector, 2016 was a very good year and some travel agencies had a 2 to 3 times increase in sales for this type of product. But, in 2017, operators in this area are expecting even higher growth if holiday budget vouchers are introduced. By comparison, it can be estimated that if the demand for balneary resorts increased by 6 to 10% each year, after the introduction of vouchers it could rise by 30%. Nicu Rădulescu, chairman of the Organization of Balneological Tourism Employers, believes that the predicted success for the year 2017 could convince the authorities that spa and wellness tourism is the future. Also, there are some promises from the Minister of Tourism that he will support this sector. However, the balneary sector needs very large investments, as there are resorts that have been completely abandoned for years. [1]

2. The natural environment of Oglinzi Baths

2.1. Geographic location and relief

Oglinzi Baths are situated in the North-Eastern part of Romania, at the intersection of Moldavian's Subcarpathians and Moldavian Plateau, at the edge of Culmea Pleșului hill, in a small depression called Poiana Dăscăliței, at an altitude of 480 meters. [2] Oglinzi resort is surrounded by slopes with deciduous trees and has an air rich in negative ions, which gives a toning effect for the body. [3]

The Neamț Hill (Culmea Pleșului) has a Northwest-Southeast orientation with a maximum altitude of 623 m, which dominates the area. His aspect is, in general, symmetrical, with a steep on the western slope, washed by the waters of the Ozana river, while the eastern slope is smoother and gradually connecting to the Moldavian Plateau. The main stream is Ozana river, which collects all the waters from the western slope of Neamț Hill. Sărata and Slatina brooks have origin on the eastern slope of this hill and are affluents of Moldova River, which crosses from North to South the western area of the plateau, but also the eastern part of this area. [4]

Saltwater springs from the area of Oglinzi Baths belong to the layers that appear at the surface on a line corresponding to miocene salt formation, parallel to the pericarpic line, in places where alluvial deposits are lacking or showing small thicknesses. These springs were known from ancient times, used in alimentation and in treating or even curing diseases. [5]



Figure 1: The map of Neamț county, Romania

2.2. Accessibility

As it is located 45 kilometers away from Piatra Neamț and only 3 kilometers from Târgu Neamț, Oglinzi Baths can be easily accessed from different locations due to a strategic position at the crossing of two national roads. The main way of connecting the city of Târgu Neamț is through the national road DN15B, which crosses the city on an East-West axis and connects the town with DN2 (connects with the municipalities of Iași and Roman) and with DN15 (link with Transylvania). Other important roads from the local level are DN15C Piatra Neamț – Vadul Moldovei, DJ155I Târgu Neamț – Tupilați, DC7 Târgu Neamț – Răucești – Ungheni and DC171 Târgu Neamț – Oglinzi – Răucești, the town of Târgu Neamț being located at their intersection. Also, the town of Târgu Neamț has railway infrastructure, access being made through secondary rail 517 – Pașcani – Târgu Neamț. It intersects in Pașcani with the main rail 500 – București – Ploiești – Adjud – Pașcani – Suceava – Vicșani and with secondary rail 606 – Pașcani – Târgu Frumos – Podu Iloaiei – Iași. In terms of air transport, the nearest airport is the International Airport „Ștefan cel Mare” from Suceava (70 km away from Târgu Neamț), followed by „George Enescu” Internațional Airport from Bacău (107 km) and Iași International Airport (110 km). [6]

2.3. Climate

The position of Oglinzi Baths in the Neamț Depression (Ozana – Topolița), which is also sheltered by Culmea Plesului, causes the meteorological factors to show specific peculiarities in the area, due to the altitude and disposal of the peaks. As a result of the slight exposure of the relief to South-East, the angle of incidence of solar rays at noon varies on average between 66°12' at the summer solstice

and 19°18' at the winter solstice.

The average annual temperature is +8.2°C, the month with the lowest average temperature is January (with -3.8°C) and the month with the highest average temperature is July (with +19.5°C), resulting an annual thermal amplitude of 23.2°C. The average winter temperature is +2.4°C and for summer months is between +17.2°C and +20.3°C.

The dominant winds are those from the North-West, followed by those from South-West, but their intensity is attenuated by Culmea Pleşului and they only reach an average speed of 4.5 m/s. Nebulosity has an annual average of 5.9, with a maximum of 6.6 in the winter months and a minimum of 4.5 in August.

Atmospheric precipitation records a multi-annual average of 672 mm, quantity that ensures the biological needs for plants, groundwater supply and an adjusting of low-altitude atmospheric humidity. Most rains fall at the end of spring and in the early summer, accounting 44% of the year. The lowest rainfall falls in February, averaging 18.8 mm.

Thus, the climate of Târgu Neamţ and the surrounding area is temperate-continental, with submontane peculiarities, with short and cool summers, long autums and mild winters, without strong winds, with fresh air, rich in ozone particles, which gives it a specific note of climatic resort. [7]

3. Incursion into the history of Oglinzi Baths

Until 1500, the old settlement of Oglinzi was Saxon and they also made the first take-off of saltwater springs. In 1652, reigning Vasile Lupu bought half of Oglinzi village from Văidăneasa and his son, Ursul, and the other half from chancellor Gheorghe Roşca. After that, he gave it to St. Nicholas Monastery from the Neamţ Fortress under the name of Oglindeşti. [8]

Several medieval documents refer to the exploitation of the salt-water springs from North and North-East of Târgu Neamţ. Thus, in 1673, the reigning Ştefan Petriceicu and, in 1676, Antonie Vodă Ruset, commanded to leave the salt-water in peace. [9]

In 1685, the first year of Constantin Cantemir's reign, St. Nicholas Monastery from Neamţ Fortress was given to Secu Monastery with all possessions, including Oglindeşti village. [10]

On the exploitation of salty water from these springs, in the 12th Civil Code of Scarlat Calimach from Moldova was mentioned that only residents of Târgu Neamţ were not supposed to pay for brine. The money collected from this charge were used to pay the supervisors of the springs. After a period of interdiction on using salt-water from Oglinzi, on 4th September 1843, Neamţ Monastery was allowed to open here brine fountains and to sell the water only under supervision.

Regarding the use of mineral water from Oglinzi springs for therapeutic purposes, the oldest information dates from the end of the 18th century (1779-1791), when at the Neamţ Monastery, was an hospital for the care of monks and even for people outside the clergy. [11]

After the construction of the hospital from Târgu Neamţ, the mineral waters from Oglinzi springs have been used in supervised combat of certain diseases. In Slatina glade there were five springs: one with sulfuric water, one with salt-water, one with mineral water and the last two with friable water.

The first chemical analysis of mineral waters from Oglinzi was made by Theodor Steiner in 1856, followed by another one in 1873 and those made by Iohan Chania and Petru Poni. [12] The last one

was a chemist, physicist, mineralogist pedagogue and Romanian politician, pioneer of the Romanian chemistry school. He also was a professor at the University of Iași and a member of the Romanian Academy. [13]

According to analyzes, mineral waters from Oglinzi were qualified as chlorosodium and sulphurous, which dr. A. Fătu recommended for the treatment of rheumatism, hemorrhoids and inflammation of the spleen and liver. Moreover, dr. R. Flechsig completed the treatment recommendation adding also skin eczema, lymphatism, syphilis and chronic diseases in women.

In 1888, at the request of the Communal Council of Târgu Neamț, the Romanian scientist Petru Poni once again verified the analyses of mineral waters from Oglinzi, for the purpose of valorizing the balneary potential. According to the reported results, the water analyzed from two springs were part of the chlorinated, sodic and brominated mineral waters, similar to the mineral waters of the renowned spa resorts of Reichenhall, Ischl, Gmunden and Hall. As for the greasy and black mud, it has been found that it contains, besides water salts and iron, as well as phosphates, as organic substances. On the basis of these analyzes, in the meeting of January 8, 1889, the City Council decided to ask the Prefecture of Neamț County to intervene at the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Domains in order to obtain an area of 11 ha and 7649 square meters from Oglinzi, where were the springs.

According to the plan drafted by the cadastral engineer of Neamț County, Oglinzi commune had to make three basins to collect the water and 12 wood cabin to accommodate the visitors. In the law voted by the Parliament and promulgated by king Carol I on July 2, 1890, it was specified that the land will be used only for the purpose of building a spa within 5 years, which can not be sold or leased. Until the release of the establishment, Târgu Neamț hospital obtained approval to use mineral water from Oglinzi to treat patients, with the condition that water is not used for domestic purposes.

The consumption of mineral water for treatments was constantly increasing and only in the summer of 1889, the water consumption amounted to approximative 132.470 liters, so the hospital's doctor asked for an increase amount from 500 to 1500 liters/ week.

The establishment was supposed to have 18 cabins, 2 pools and 2 reservoirs of mineral and drinking water. For execution and construction works, on April 30, 1891, was signed the contract with the company "Mathias Zwiling and Isidor Eisenber" from Botoșani. From the city, the works were supervised by the French engineer Pierre Papon the Lamegni, who captured the waters, directed the construction of the buildings (except the hotel), installed the mechanical parts of the machines, arranged the mud spot, the resort park and the surrounding plantations. The mechanical part of the water and sewerage installations at the Water Castle, the large and small tanks, the boiler with its accessories, the regulators, the bathroom and showers installations, the pumps for raising the water from the wells, the steam control etc. were purchased from Kellsen, Viena.

In parallel with the completion of the construction works was built the connection between the baths and the city, with 2 large bridges and 11 small ones, which on September 26, 1893 was almost finished.

For the construction works, Târgu Neamț City Hall contracted a loan with which it paid the expenses for the years 1891-1892. With one-third of the load, it had to build a hotel with about 60-70 rooms, a festive hall, a restaurant and a kitchen, as well as the resort's park and the place for the use of mud.

In the summer season of 1892, it seems that the baths functioned greatly. From the budget analysis

for 1892-1893, it can be seen that the works were nearing the end. During this time, patients had to live in private homes in the city, making a daily commuting journey, thus feeling the need for a hotel building. In July 1893, an internal functioning regulation was also published in Monitorul Oficial. In order to construct de hotel from Oglinzi baths and other objectives from the city, in June 1893, the demarches for contracting a new loan were started.

The plan and the hotel building prices have been drawn by engineer Gheoghe C. Cosmovici from Bucharest, since 1892. According to the auction, the hotel with 60-70 rooms, with a hall of festivities, a restaurant and a kitchen had to have the wall made of bricks with ceramic, iron and cast iron decorations. The works began in 1894 under the supervision of G.B. Celant from Piatra Neamț and were finished in July the same year.

As another loan was not possible due to previous debt, local building materials were used to build the new hotel. The stone for foundations was extracted from Valea Seacă, the hydraulic lime used as a binder was removed and burnt at Filioara and Tarcău, the wood was extracted from the neighboring forests of the baths and the bricks were produced in Târgu Neamț and Humulești. The hotel was named, as a sign of respect for the king of Romania, Carol. The hotel did not come into operation until 1896, as evidenced by the presence of room rates in the income revenue list.

Despite all the efforts made, the city's expenses were still higher than the sums earned. The economic growth on which Târgu Neamț's administration based on with the launching of Oglinzi Baths did not occur, mainly due to a lack of modern transport system.

Thus, although it was part of the picturesque place and age, horse-drawn carriage with omnibuses did not satisfy the needs of population anymore, where the comfort needs grew.

On January 26, 1899, the Communal Council brought into discussion the impossibility of the city to pay its debts, thus deciding to cede the baths to the state, with the condition that all debts are paid and a railway is constructed between Pașcani and Târgu Neamț. But the baths remained in the administration of the mayor's office until 1904, when they were leased by Arthur Bartsch for a period of 20 years. However, on October 11, 1907, taking advantage of the fact that the lease did not contained any clauses to ban it, Arthur Bartsch subcontracted the lease to Rudolph Fritz. After a period of 5 years, in 1912, the lease was also transferred to Octav Ionescu.



Figure 2: Carol Hotel in 1910

However, in the years of the First World War, Oglinzi Baths, the hospital, the schools and other public buildings in Târgu Neamț were redeemed for the needs of the army. At Oglinzi Baths was housed the Mountain Hunters Battalion, brought to Târgu Neamț for training and organizing on December 1916. During this time, the army caused major malfunctions and material damages, which led the tenant to demand the termination of the lease and an indemnity.

Following several discussions about repairing the damage done by the army, a dispute arose between the mayor's office and the tenant Octav Ionescu, which reached the Court of Appeal from Iași. The conclusion of this case was to terminate the lease contract and to hand over the entire inventory intact, otherwise, the tenant would pay the value of the missing goods.

In 1919, Târgu Neamț City Hall made a new attempt to sell the Oglinzi Baths to C.F.R. (The Romanian Railways) with the sum of 10 million lei, money that was meant to carry out the most important public works and the introduction of the electric lighting. But the offer was rejected because the resort was far from the railways and did not have fir forest. The exploitation of the baths in their own direction brought significant losses to the mayor, in the summer season of 1921, they only functioned for 16 days.

At the tender of June 15, 1922, the lease was taken by Ioan D. Ceacâru from Târgu Neamț, also for a period of 20 years, until 1942. He has been seriously involved in work since the autumn of 1922 he has dealt with repairing the old buildings, installations and reservoirs, setting up the park and undertaking new constructions. He replaced the shingle from the Carol Hotel and unleashed the establishment of the third-class baths, which had all the infrastructure damaged and raised the floor to the Barsen villa to remove the infiltration of water. In the following years, he built the new Ferdinand and Creangă Hotels with 25-30 rooms, a Casino – restaurant and Ella villa. The treatment was done in 42 tiled cabinets, with all-comfort tiled or zinc tubs, with hot and cold showers, massage and wrapping rooms, hydrotherapy rooms, spray pavilion and inhalations.



Figure 3: The former Creangă Hotel



Figure 4: Carol Hotel and the former Casino

New publicity brochures were published in which Oglinzi Baths are considered to be “The Pearl of Moldova”, with the front cover of Carol Hotel and the last cover with the Casino Restaurant building, inside the facades of the Creangă and Ferdinand Hotels and the Ella villa. Also, all necessary data on the composition of mineral waters and their curative value are presented in the treatment of rheumatic diseases, rickets, nerve diseases, bone diseases and specific feminine diseases.

Thus, Oglinzi Baths in the interwar period rivaled with the major European resorts. [14] At the stage of maximum development, due to the special qualities of water and treatment efficacy, the

resort develops continuously and comprises:

- Three hotels, covered with shingles;
- Four villas, one of which for staff;
- The Casino;
- First-class baths and medical cabinet;
- Second and third class baths;
- Fresh water tank;
- Artesian fountain;
- The orchestration pavilion;
- House for medical service;
- House for baths staff, with 7 rooms made of wood and covered with shingles;
- House for the buffet, with 2 rooms made of bricks and covered with shingles;
- The water castle – where the machines were, made of bricks and covered with metal sheet;
- Wooden shed for storage and stable;
- Wood shelf covered with metal sheet, which also served as an ironing and laundry workshop;
- Booth for the guards and for security soldiers;
- Four mineral water wells padded with oak;
- Two tanks for mineral and drinking water;
- A wooden tank for drinking water, connected with the water castle;
- A greenhouse with oven.



Figure 5: General view from 1922



Figure 6: General view from 1927

In the period of World War II, the town was subjected to the bombing and the treatment installations were destroyed, the resort ceasing its activity.

Since 1952, several researchers and doctors from the Institute of Physical Medicine, Balneology and Medical Recovery from Bucharest, through their works, draw attention to the mineral water from Oglinzi. Between 1970 and 1972, four pavilions of accommodation for 100 people were built and nowadays, together with Hotel Carol (the only construction remaining from the old resort), function as school camp during the summer.

In 1986, the Neamț County Tourist Office started the construction of two pavilions for accommodation, food and treatment. The works were finalized in 1988, when two two-storey hotels were constructed, following a traditional mountain specific architecture. Pavilion A has a capacity of 50 beds and, at the ground floor and a restaurant with 120 seats. Pavilion B has a total of 40 beds and a treatment base at the ground floor with a capacity of 500 procedures per shift. The project

development was proposed for a longer period of time, tending towards a capacity of 1000 beds and modernization of the treatment base. [15]



Figure 7: The alley in front of the hotel built in 1988 (pavilion A)



Figure 8: Pavilion A of the hotel, built in 1988



Figure 9: Pavilion B



Figure 10: Carol Hotel

At the moment, Oglinzi Baths resort offers only basic tourist services: accommodation and dining. The tourist entertainment is poorly represented in the resort's offer and the balneology, which could be the main motivation to increase the occupancy of the resort, is nonexistent. The use of chlorosodium water from Oglinzi – Târgu Neamț is the condition and the chance for the resort to know the improvement of the financial situation and ensure the permanent functionality.

4. Balneotherapeutic treatment

4.1. Resort profile

According to the chemical composition of the waters and the curative effects, Oglinzi resort occupies the 5th place in Europe. The main natural therapeutic factors are mineral waters, which are part of the chlorine, sodium and bromine mineral water class (similar to mineral waters of the renowned European spa resorts of Reichenhall (Bavaria), Ischl (Austria) and Hall (Tirol)). [16]

Spring name	Sodium chloride at 100 gr. water
Ciechocinek (Poland)	334
Reinfeelden(Switzerland)	311
Hall (Tirol)	255
Ischl (Austria)	255
Oglinzi	252,7
Stotterheim (Weimar)	251
Salieza de Beaur (France)	245
Bălătești	237
Reichenhall (Bavaria)	224
Salyes (France)	168
Salzburg (Austria)	157

Table 1: Europe's concentrated chlorine water springs (1888)

4.2. Natural therapeutic factors

The natural cure factors used in spa therapy are represented by: climate, chlorosodic water and mud. The climate, presented in a previous chapter, is crumbling and toning. The air, very rich in negative ions, has a refreshing effect on the body, of sedation and toning. This soothing climate, where the summers are not excessively warm, with mild winters, does not obey the body to special adaptation efforts, no matter which area of the country comes the patient.

Clean, ozonated air, mild climate and ambient peace are favorable to health, contributing to accelerate breathing and increase appetite. From the first days of arrival in the locality, the sedative effect of the climate is felt, the sleep normalizes, becoming deep and restful. The general well being sensation is felt by most rheumatic patients and those with nerve disorders. From the bioclimate properties, which constitute a precious health factor, benefit a large number of patients by: aeroheliotherapeutic and land cure. Aeroheliotherapy is recommended for patients throughout the year, depending on the thermal comfort condition during exposure to air and sun, with the indication that the exposure of the body is done in a dosed manner. Land cure is an important contributor to the medical recovery of patients with neurotic states and children with capricious appetite. [17]

As a result of the drilling and due to the distribution of salt-water springs, it was highlighted the existence of a thin layer of salt up to maximum 130 meters, which develops from the town of Târgu Neamț to north-east for about four kilometers. In this deposit, the salt is impure with a concentration of 70-90% NaCl, but from crystallization of the mineral contained in the springs water results a clean salt. [18]

The mud present in Oglinzi resort is black, greasy and contains, in addition to saline substances and iron, also phosphates as organic substances. [19]

4.3. Therapeutic indications

Over the years, Oglinzi Baths have achieved good results in the treatment of diseases, such as: degenerative rheumatic diseases, post-traumatic sequelae, nervous system disorders, chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases, complex diseases, diseases of the respiratory system, asthenic neurosis, gynecological diseases, skin diseases (chronic eczema). [20]

4.4. Therapeutic contraindications

General contraindications of salt-water: acute and chronic diseases during exacerbation, infectious diseases during their contagious period, acute and contagious venereal diseases (syphilis, gonorrhoea), poor general condition of the organism, diseases based on pathogenic germs, tumors malignancies, repeated and abnormal bleeding, epilepsy, pathological pregnancy from the fifth month, blood and hematopoietic diseases, parasitic diseases, psychiatric disorders, amyloidosis, narcotics and alcoholism. [21]

5. Conclusions

Oglinzi Baths, the 5th resort in Europe for water quality, is now unused. At present, it offers only basic tourist services: accommodation and dining. Tourism is poorly represented in the resort's offer and balneology, which may be the main motivation for increasing the occupancy of the resort, is non-existent. The use of chlorine water from Oglinzi – Târgu Neamț is the condition and the chance for the resort to experience an improvement of the financial situation, ensuring the permanent functionality.

Recently, the Town Hall of Târgu Neamț managed to buy the actions from SIF Transilvania, which was the major shareholder at SC Băile Oglinzi SA. There is a partnership contract between Târgu Neamț Local Council and Oglinzi Resort, which has as a priority the rehabilitation and development of Oglinzi Baths. On the basis of this contract, the City Council has made available to the resort the area of 67.360 sqm, land located near the mineral and chlorine water springs.

The Oglinzi Resort development project involves the construction of a four-star hotel with 120 rooms, the construction of a 2.000 sqm spa center, the purchase of wellness facilities (1.500 sqm), the setting of a 1.500 sqm conference center (comprising three halls, of which two for seminars of up to 70 people and a modular conference room for 120 people, eventually exhibitions, other events, bar, protocol salon), modernization and improving the comfort for the two existing hotels.

Even if the completion of the project had the term 2016, the actual work on building the treatment base was not started for lack of funds. Now, as a major shareholder at Oglinzi Baths, Târgu Neamț City Hall could attract funds so that the resort, left in decay, will reach the top of the spa resorts in Romania, where its place is.

Due to the exceptional therapeutic qualities of Oglinzi salt-waters, the proposal for rehabilitation of this spa resort is perfectly justified. Once valuable and appreciated at european level, it is obvious the potential for the development of a modern resort, corresponding to the current sustainability requirements.

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7. Image sources

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Fig.2: Hotel Carol în anul 1910,

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Fig.3: Hotel Creangă,

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Fig.7: Personal archive

Fig.8: Personal archive

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Fig.9: Personal archive

8. Table sources

Table 1: Băbușcă G., *Băile Oglinzi – Perla Moldovei. Stațiune balneară și climaterică. Băi de sare și de nămol. Hidroterapie, inhalații, restaurant de primul ordin. Hoteluri, vile, casino, dancing*, Editura Librăria „Cartea de Aur” Calea Victoriei, București, 1939, p.7