

Making Ends Meet

Crisan, Danube Delta, Romania



Valeriu Safcencu

Valeriu Safcencu is the mayor of Crisan, the 'comuna' of which Mila 23 forms part. He explained that Mila 23 has about 500 people, and that it has been there for more than 220 years. Most of the people living there are Russian Lipoveni by origin, but there are also some people of Ukrainian Hoholi origin, and some Romanians.

He tries to help the people of the villages under his direction. He gives permits for construction and money to provide food for the people of his villages in the wintertime when there are shortages because the river Danube is blocked by ice and nothing can get through.

He has to intervene, sometimes, in conflicts which arise between those running the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (whom the local people call the 'ecologisti') and the local fishermen, because they get into disputes over fishing.