

STUDY ON THE NATURAL, SOCIAL AND ANTHROPIC CADRE EXISTING IN THE VADU CRIȘULUI COMMUNE, BIHOR

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Abstract

Vadu Crișului commune is located in northwestern Romania, in eastern side of Bihor County. The commune is crossed by the railway Oradea - Cluj-Napoca. Also through the commune passes and the E60, 50 km from Oradea and 100 km from Cluj-Napoca.

In this paper we present the natural, social and anthropic cadre of Vadu Crișului commune. Historic edifices, religious edifices and the pottery craftmake commune Vadu Crișului a destination appreciated by tourists.

Key words: Religious edifices, hydrographic potential, demographic aspects, population structure by nationality, population structure by religion.

INTRODUCTION

Tourists visiting the commune Vadu Crișului have at their disposal a wide range of leisure possibilities, such as climbing, canyoning, caving, rafting, fishing, hunting, outdoor walks.

The defile of Crișul Repede, Vadu Crișului Cave and Waterfall, Dragon House are tourist attractions points for Vadu Crișului commune that offers visitors the opportunity to spend their free time in a pleasant way.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

General aspects. The commune Vadu Crișului is located at the contact of Pădurea Craiului Mountains with Vad Depression.

The commune Vadu Crișului is bordered to the north by Aușeu commune, at north-west of the Măgești commune, to the west by Aștileu commune, at south-west of the Dobrești commune, at south and the southeast by Șuncuiuș commune, at north-east of the commune Borod .

The commune Vadu Crișului covers an area of 74.70 km² and includes four villages: Vadu Crișului - the village of residence Birtin, Topa de Criș and Tomnatic.

Hydrographic potential. The commune Vadu Crișului is crossed by river Crișul Repede. The main affluents of Crișul Repede on the territory of the commune Vadu Crișului are: Borodi Valley, Mierâie Valley, Cave Creek.

Climate. From a climate perspective, commune Vadu Crișului has a temperate climate with mild winters and appropriate summers.

Vegetation and fauna. In the commune Vadu Crișului vegetation is represented by: deciduous forests - beech, holm, hornbeam, birch; fern species of oxlip. Protected species which occur are: pasque flower, wild tulip, wild onions.

Fauna is represented by mammals - wolves, deer, wild boar, fox, hare, fauna is also represented by birds, reptiles, fish.

Demographic aspects. In the commune Vadu Crișului there were living at the census date from 2011 a number of 4009 people. On the occasion of the census from 2011, a total of 2753 residents, or 68.67% declared themselves to be ethnic Romanian. The largest majority is formed by Hungarians: at the census a number 751, ie 18.73% of population declared themselves Hungarians. According to the census, the number of gipsy people was 369, ie 9.20%

By nationality, the population structure is shown in Table 1 (Source: INS 2013)

Tabelul 1

Structura populației după naționalitate
Population structure by nationality

Naționalitate	Număr locuitori	%
Total	4009	100
Români	2753	68,67
Maghiari	751	18,73
Romi	369	9,20
Altă etnie	10	0,25
Necunoscută	126	3,15

Sursa: INS 2013

Among minority must be highlighted the Hungarians whose presence is a basic factor in maintaining the cross-border relations also in attracting resources for the development of this ethnic group.

Population structure based on religion is presented in Table 2 (Source: NIS 2013)

Tabelul 2

Structura populației după religie
Population structure by religion

Religie	Număr locuitori	%
Total	4009	100
Ortodocși	2615	65,23
Reformați	657	16,39
Penticostali	199	4,96
Greco-catolici	64	1,60
Bapțiști	304	7,58
Altă religie	44	1,10
Necunoscută	126	3,14

Sursa: INS 2013

Romanians belong to the Orthodox religion and Hungarians belong to the Reformed religion.

The population density is 58 inhabitants / km².

Religious edifices. On the territory of Vadu Crișului commune are found the following religious edifices:

- The wall church from Vadu Crișului with the titular saint Archangels Michael and Gabriel since 1790;
- In Topa de Criș village it has been built a commemorative monument of those who died in the construction of Oradea - Cluj-Napoca railways, building dating from 1870, historical monument.

Historic edifices. Medieval tower from Portus Crisy - Salt Customs or Dragon House - sec. XIII-XVI - in Vadu Crișului. The tower from the Dragon House or Salt Customs is located at the entry into Defile of Crișul Repede, on a vertical cliff, eight meters above the ground. The tower dates from around 1200, has observation windows and was intended for the surveillance of Crișul Repede river traffic.

Cultural edifices. On the territory of Vadu Crișului there are the following representative institutions for culture: Vadu Crișului communal library and statue of Potter from Vadu Crișului.

Traditions, customs and specific crafts. The crafts specific of the commune Vadu Crișului are: pottery, calcimine manufacturing, blacksmithing, tannery.

Pottery. Vadu Crișului village is an old pottery center, unique in Europe by the white color of the ceramic resulting from combustion. Vessels representative for the Vadu Crișului center pottery are: pots of stuffed cabbage, water noggins, tall cruses, pots and vases for flowers, candle holders, children toys. Currently, only two families still practice this profession: Szolga Géczi Juliana and Peter Hașaş.

Calcimine manufacturing is favored by the karstic character of the area, the abundance of wood that constitute the fuel necessary for the combustion of limestone. Lime kilns can be found in the villages Vadu Crișului and Tomnatic.

- Fair Folk Festival at Salt Custom came in 2013 at the 45th edition. It is held at the end of the first week in June. The festival begins with "re-doing" of the arrival floats with salt on Crișul Repede, recasted by two young men dressed in traditional costumes.

- There are many traditions: Christmas, New Year - Vergelul, Epiphany, Easter, funeral and birthday.

- Folk dance ensemble "Moșuț" from Vadu Crișului represents the commune in various cultural events.

CONCLUSIONS

Vadu Crișului is a commune located in the eastern part of Bihor County, composed of four villages: Vadu Crișului - the village of residence, Birtin, Topa de Criș, Tomnatic.

The commune Vadu Crișului has many religious and historical edifices, customs and crafts, natural sights very appreciated among tourists.

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