STUDY ON THE NATURAL, SOCIAL AND ANTHROPI
C FRAMES EXISTING IN THE ŞIMIAN COMMUNE, BIHOR

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Abstract
Şimian commune is situated in the northwest of the country and in the north–west part of
Bihor county, in the plain low Carei. In this paper we present the natural, social and anthropic frames
of Şimian commune.

Historic edifices and religious edifices make commune Şimian a destination appreciated
by tourists.

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

INTRODUCTION

Fishing, hunting, outdoor walks are some of a wide range of leisure possibilities tourists have at their disposal when visiting Şimian commune.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

General aspects. Şimian commune is situated in the northwest of the country and in the north–west part of Bihor county, in the plain low Carei (Nirului).

The commune of Şimian is composed of four localities: Şimian Şilindru, Voivozi and hamlets: Şimian Nou and Barantău.

In the north, the Şimian commune is bordered by Valea lui Mihai commune, in the South it is bordered by Cherechiu commune, in the East there is Tarcea commune that is bordering the commune and in the west it is bordered by Hungary.

Hydrographic potential. Hidrographically speaking, the commune is part of the Barcău basin whose tributaries, Mouca and Salcia creeks are crossing S-E and N-W side of the commune.
Salcia creek forms a low and wide valley. In the south part of the Şimian commune a dam for water storage was built. The commune is protected from any water overflow from the lake with a pier of ground.

**Climate.** The climate has moderate continental character, with an annual average of 10 degrees Celsius and a relatively high atmospheric humidity, the most humid months are from March to May and October-November.

**Vegetation and fauna.** The vegetation shows a variety of trees, plants and flowers, with a total of 16 protected plants including lotus flower, edelweiss, bear grapes, with adapted mammals such as: pheasant, grouse, rabbit, deer, wild boar, marten, deer, lynx, bear etc.

Both rivers and lakes in the county are the home to trout (mountain) chub, crab and pike (hill and plain).

**Demographic aspects.** According to the census conducted in 2011, Şimian commune population was up to 3876 people, down from the previous census in 2002, when it had registered 4045 inhabitants.

Most residents are Hungarians (64,19 %). The main minorities are the Romanians (18,73 %) and Romani (13,91 %). For 3,17 % of the population, ethnicity unknown.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number inhabitants</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3876</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungarians</td>
<td>2488</td>
<td>64,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanians</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>18,73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romani</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>13,91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>3,17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sursa: INS 2013

In terms of confessional structure, most of the inhabitants are Reformed (37,38 %), Roman-Catholics (27,71 %), Orthodox (15,35 %), Greek-Catholics (13,34 %) and Baptists (1,81 %). For 4,41 % of the population, the religious affiliation is unknown.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number inhabitants</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3876</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed</td>
<td>1449</td>
<td>37.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman-Catholics</td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>27.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>15.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek-Catholics</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>13.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptists</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>4.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sursa: INS 2013

Religious edifices. On the territory of Șimian commune the following religious edifices are found: Șimian Reformed Church – XVIIIth century; Șilindru Reformed Church; Șimian Orthodox Church; Șimian Roman-Catholic Church.

Cultural edifices. The following representative institutions of culture find in the area of Șimian commune: Mansions: Frater family mansion; Fucs family mansion; Csiha family mansion; The bust of Kazinczy Ferenc; The bust of Csiha Kálmán; The bust of Frater Lorand; Double millenary cross: On August 20, 2000 Șimian inhabitants have raised this memorial to honor the celebration of 2000 years of Christianity and 1000 years of Hungarian existance. A community center; Șimian Community Library.

Historical monuments:
- “Dealul Viilor” (settlement, eneolitic; cemetery, Bronze Era and “Groapa cu lut” (settlement, Iron Era, gepidae) - Șimian;
- “Dealul Episcopului” (fortified settlement, Bronze Era) – Șilindru;
- Architectural monuments: Reformed Church (XVIIIth century) - Șimian.


Turism. Due regional organization, infrastructure and benefits, in the commune of Șimian, there are many opportunities to invest in tourism.

It may invest in tourism, the area benefits of lakes, wooded areas and historical monuments (The Village Museum, The Statue of Linguist
Kazinczy Ferenc, monument to heroes of the First and Second World War and churches).

CONCLUSIONS

Şimian is a commune situated in the north-west part of Bihor County, composed of four villages: Şimian - the village of residence, Şilindru, Voivozi and the two hamlets: Şimian Nou and Barantău.

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

REFERENCES