

## STUDY ON THE NATURAL, SOCIAL AND ANTHROPIC FRAMES EXISTING IN THE ȘIMIAN COMMUNE, BIHOR

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### **Abstract**

*Șimian 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 Șimian commune.*

*Historic edifices and religious edifices make commune Șimian 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 Șimian commune.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**General aspects.** Șimian 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 Șimian is composed of four localities: Șimian Șilindru, Voivozi and hamlets: Șimian Nou and Barantău.

In the north, the Șimian 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 Șimian 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, Șimian 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 1

Structura populației după naționalitate  
Population structure by nationality

Nationality	Number inhabitants	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3876</b>	<b>100</b>
Hungarians	2488	64,19
Romanians	726	18,73
Romani	539	13,91
Unknown	123	3,17

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

Structura populației după religie  
Population structure by religion

Religion	Number inhabitants	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3876</b>	<b>100</b>
Reformed	1449	37,38
Roman-Catholics	1074	27,71
Orthodox	595	15,35
Greek-Catholics	517	13,34
Baptists	70	1,81
Unknown	171	4,41

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 existence. A community center; Șimian Community Library.

**Historical monuments:**

- “Dealul Viilor” (settlement, eneolithic; 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.

**Traditions, customs and specific crafts.** Folk dance, namely the Shepherd dance. Since december 2004, there are seven dance couples that form a folk ensemble. There are many traditions: for Christmas, New Year, Easter, funeral and birthday. Days of Șimian commune - 17<sup>th</sup> edition in august 2015. Days of Șilindru village - annual, during July month. Theatre Unwritten.

**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

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

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

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