

**RESEARCH ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE MAUREN,
CARAS-SEVERIN COUNTY**

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***Abstract:** In this paper the authors undertake some research on the development of the village Maureni in Caras-Severin county trying to identify the main strategic directions of development of the village. The main methods used in carrying out this work are analysis and synthesis, and interpretation of graphics.*

***Key words:** rural development, population, rural economy.*

INTRODUCTION

In Banat, along with Romanian population, were seated in time other nations. Most people colonized in Banat were of German origin and the locality analyzed in this paper, the village Maureni, was a German colony which was formed in 1784 with a total of 200 new homes from the state, with 30 families of Germans settlers. A total of 202 families in the village have set up in 1786. (Development Strategy of the village Maureni 2007-2013)

The first name of the settlement was "Moritzfeld" (1786) from German which means „field, area, Maurice or Moritz's field." Over time it had many names: Moriczfel (1894), Moritzfeld (1919), Maureni (1965). Between 1956-1957 **the locality of Maureni is common** in Caras-Severin county and consists of two villages: the village Maureni (communal residence) and Sosdea village.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The most used methods of analysis and diagnosis of rural areas are multi-criteria analysis and SWOT analysis. Multi-criteria analysis of the rural area comprises a set of seven criteria for analysis (physical-geographic, demographic, economic, housing, equipment technical, social and environmental criteria), on which the end of the research authors performed a brief SWOT analysis of the study area.

1. The physical and geographical aspects of the locality Maureni

The geographic settlement of the locality Maureni. Maureni is located in south-western Romania, western end of Caras Severin county's at the boundary with Timis county. Maureni includes the villages Maureni – communal residence and village Sosdea (at 6 km).



Fig. 1 Village Maureni location on Caras-Severin County's map

Source: <http://comuna.info/harta-maureni-cs/>

Maureni common borders with the following municipalities:

- In the north, the town Tormac;
- in the south-east, the village Berzovia;
- in the east, village Vermeş;
- in the south-west, the town Gataia.

Maureni has a favorable position, being located at an average distance from the residence of the county (36 km) and at the crossing of some roads that have national and county importance.

Landform. In the case of the **landform**, Maureni is in Tisa’s Plain , High Plain’s subunit, respectively Plain Semailac in contact with western piedmont hills at an altitude of 135-140 m. The village Maureni is located in an area of high plain, piedmont (118-165 m). Certain parts, such as the valleys of terraces, lowlands areas are prone to flooding, which may be limited by damming and river regulation Bârzava and sewers.

Climate. The climate of Maureni village, retains the general features of appearance continental climate - mild in Western Plain. By the position it has in this southern plains under the influence, more frequent, Southern Mediterranean and western ocean climatic elements .

2. The population of Maureni

Currently (2016) Maureni village population is formed by 2746 people, knowing different oscillations over time.

Maureni village population in 1966 was of 1893 inhabitants, their ethnic structure is as follows: 1282 German, 527 Romanian, 79 Hungarian and 5 other ethnic lines.

At the 1992 census, the village Maureni population was 2555 inhabitants, of which 863 had Sosdea village residents and village Maureni had 1692 inhabitants, arranged ethnically: 126 Germans, 1511 Romanian, Hungarian and 46 other ethnic lines.

At the 2002 census, stable resident population of the village Maureni was 2672 inhabitants. The situation in villages, nationalities and religions were as follows:

Table 1

The ethnic structure of the village Maureni, 2002

Locality	Population	Romanians	Hungarian	German	Other ethnic lines
Maureni	1749	1613	36	59	41
Sosdea	923	915	3	-	5
Total	2672	2528	39	59	46

Source: Development Strategy for 2007-2013 village Maureni

Table 2

The religion structure of the village Maureni, 2002

Locality	Population	Orthodox	Roman-catholics	Reformants	Pentecostals	Other religions
Maureni	1749	1486	124	7	108	24
Sosdea	923	728	6	0	181	8
Total	2672	2214	130	7	289	32

Source: Development Strategy for 2007-2013 village Maureni

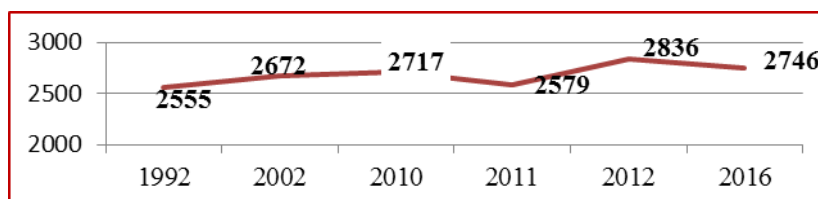


Fig. 3. Evolution of the population in the village Maureni during 1992-2012

Comparing data from the census in 1992 (2555 inhabitants), the village population of 2002 (2672 inhabitants) it can easily be observed that the population increased by 117 people.

The ethnic structure of the village Maureni in 2011 was as follows: 1% German, 97.3% Romanian, 1.3% Hungarian and 0.4% other ethnic lines.

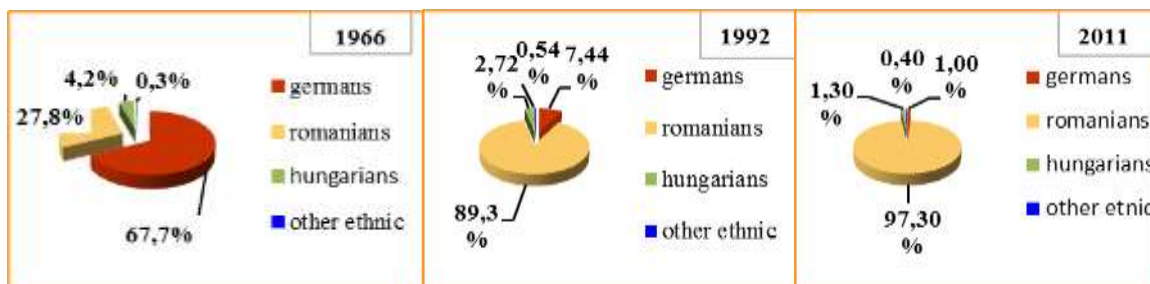


Fig. 4 Ethnic structure evolution of the population of the village Maureni during 1966-2011

At the end of 2012 Maureni village population was 2836 inhabitants, of which: 1815 inhabitants in the village of 1021 inhabitants in the village Sosdea.

The occupational structure of the population of the village Maureni, in late 2012, was as follows:

- 1644 people were active (aged 20-65 years), of which 1200 persons were employed (468 employees); of these only 100 people were employed in the village, others were busy in the locality, the others being busy in other cities or abroad;

- 1192 people inactive, structured as follows: 521 people represented by pupils and students, 406 are retirees and 198 domestic.

Currently, between 200-500 people are temporarily left to work abroad, and about as many commute daily, weekly or regular at their jobs in Timisoara, Deta and various settlements in the country.

3. The economy of the village Maureni

The main economic activity is agriculture in the village with two components: crop and animal husbandry.

Maureni administrative territory covers an area of 8830 ha. Land area located within the village Maureni is 178.31 hectares and 148.10 hectares of land in village Sosdea.

Of the total territory of the village of 8830 ha, 8259 ha a 571 ha represent the agricultural and non-agricultural area.

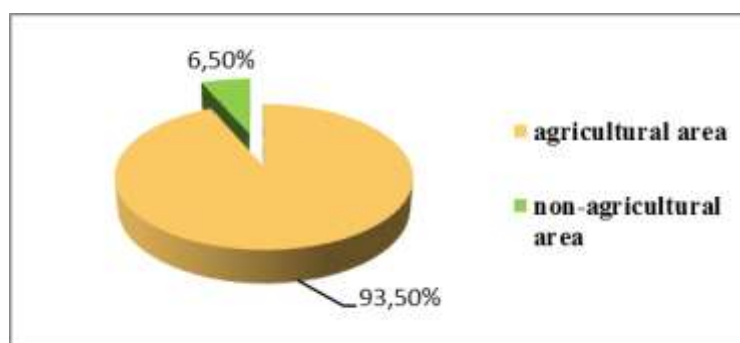


Fig. 5 Structure land of the village Maureni

Agricultural lands occupy 93.5% of the total area of the village and determine its dominant economic position, namely the agricultural insufficiently exploited at present. Of the 8259 hectares as agricultural land is: arable land occupies 7080 ha; 1082 ha pastures; natural meadows - 97 ha.

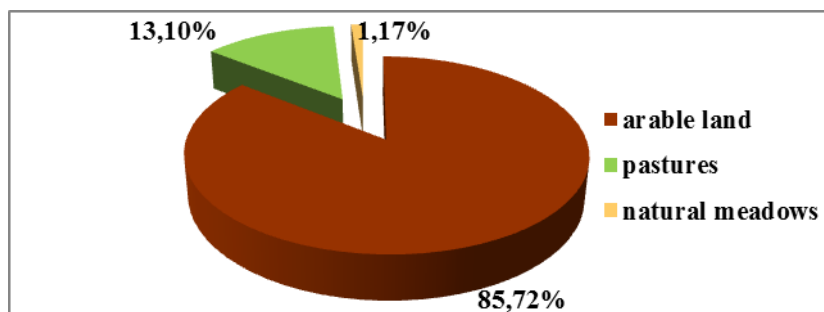


Fig. 6 Layout agricultural area of the village Maureni by use

Pastures and hayfields occupy 13.1% of the agricultural land of the village, which favors the development of livestock sector in the village.

Maureni locality due to plain relief, does not stand out as a great industrial center. This was due to changes in recent years by dismantling some companies owned to the state. However in Maureni lately due to local authorities work to attract investment, the industry began to develop some branches.

Trade activity on the territory of Maureni has experienced in recent years a permanent development in parallel with its diversification so that today it is well represented throughout the joint. In 2013, there are a number of over 15 retail companies, mixed bars and shops whose trade policy is geared towards the development of its own retail network. There are also family businesses or freelancers in different fields.

Tourism. Due to the landform and poor conditions existing with a low potential in this area the tourist network is not developed.

4. Housing and way of living in the village Maureni

Maureni is a village gathered specific plains type, with households adjacent rectangular distributed. There are also a few scattered farms, located near the railway station.

The village is divided into four areas of approximately equal sizes, limited by two main roads in the village: The National Road - DN 58 B and communal road - DC 83 A.

The typical household is still at present in the village, but the village was developed gradually with economic and social development. The household consists of: housing, annexes, fountain courtyard in front of the house, yard and garden animals.

The dwelling has the shape of a wagon, the rooms are arranged longitudinally from the street to the courtyard.

5. The technical equipment of the village Maureni

Maureni locality has a diversified network communication paths formed by national roads, communal roads, streets and railways. The network configuration is one parallel and one perpendicular in Maureni and approximately radial in Sosdea village. The village is crossed by DN 58B Resita - Timisoara, a road passing through the village Maureni. Its length, the radius of 5 km and it is asphalted.

A communal road has a total length of 13.5 km and connects the village and the village Sosdea and Tormac. It was upgraded by SAPARD program over a length of 7.5 km.

The network of streets in villages has a length of approximately 35.5 kilometers. The streets are in poor condition 70% in the muddy potholes and bumps requiring maintenance and modernization.

Also on the territory of the village there are traveled roads unclassified, as follows:

- Road Sosdea - Sculea;
- Road Sosdea - Berzovia;
- Road Sosdala - Gherteni; - Road Maureni - Fize;
- Road Maureni - Ferendia; - Road Maureni – Big Semlac.

In the village pass two railway lines - Timisoara - Resita, with halt in Maureni and - Lugoj - Gătaia with halt in Sosdea.

Referring to the gas distribution network, drinking water, they are in the design phase.

6. Social Aspects

The education

School education

In Maureni school education is carried out in 2 schools with grades I - VIII: Maureni Secondary School; „Ioan Ciucurel” Sosdea Secondary School, and 2 kindergartens: Maureni Kindergarten; Sosdea Kindergarten;

Health.

In the village Maureni health is serviced by a medical doctor and a nurse, and a medical point in Sosdea. The local council has approved a space for building a new medical center. There is also a pharmacy in the village that serves the human population in the area.

Culture

Maureni Cultural Centre was opened in 1972 and has been renovated several times. Sosdea Cultural Centre was opened in 1922 and has been renovated several times. Performing cultural - artistic circles and organizes courses for children and adults organized by the town hall, the school in Maureni, kindergartens.

The locality has a public library with books in Romanian and German and is located inside the cultural center of Maureni.

Maureni has a few historical monuments:

- Heroes Monument in the courtyard of the Catholic Church on which are names of the fallen heroes in the First World War.
- Sosdea Heroes Monument in the center of which are the names of the fallen heroes in World War II.

Places of worship in the village Maureni intended to be a chance for everyone to come closer to God according to his cult, to gather young Christian of the moral values, by encouraging the spirit of tolerance.

Orthodox Church Parish in Maureni; Since 2004, the village Maureni, it started building a new church; Sosdea Parish;

Catholic churches: Catholic Church in Maureni;

Pentecostal churches: Pentecostal Church of Maureni; from 2005 was started building a new church in Maureni, Pentecostal Church of Sosdea;

Cultural events. Maureni village hosts annual cultural events such as:

- Celebration of the day of the village Maureni;
- Celebration of the day of the village Sosdea;
- Ball of the firefighters.

Social protection. Din 2001 the **City Council of the City of Maureni** approved a social worker post in charge of everything that means social asistence at the village level.

In the legislation, that was set up this post, the aims are maintaining, restoring and developing individual capacities to overcome situations of need, chronic and emergency if one person or family is unable to resolve. So the whole entire activity of the social worker, information, advice, providing benefits and social services, is carried out in the interest of citizens, beneficiaries are all categories of people for economic, physical, mental or social unable to ensure their social needs, to develop their own capacities for social integration.

SWOT analysis of the village Maureni

STRONG POINTS

- Geographic position right at the confluence of the two counties;
- Landform is plain, favorable to agriculture;
- Temperate continental climate with hot summers and mild winters without drought and without very low temperatures;
- The population is growing;
- There is a balanced distribution of the population by gender;
- The high rate of inclusion in the labor market (at the level of 2012, 1,200 people were employed);
- All major settlements and isolated elements are connected to the electricity grid;
- Access roads, even if the road condition is not the best;
- Access to services providing fixed telephony, mobile, cable television / satellite, internet and courier;
- Existence of a service office in the Town Hall;
- There is a medical infrastructure that provides basic services;
- Access to railway;
- Potential livestock raised by the existence of large areas of grassland;
- Regular cultural events take place (Celebration Church, Days of..., school festivities, celebrations).

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of qualified staff and sometimes uncorrelated with local labor market needs;
- There is a weak activity in the sphere of processing of agricultural products;
- Insufficient investment in agriculture and valorification of agricultural production (missing storage centers, collecting food products);
- There are unidentified unemployed working as day laborers without being registered;
- Unmodernized educational infrastructure;
- It manifests dropout phenomenon;
- There are still paved roads;
- The city currently lacks a sewage system and gas network;
- Lack of forest areas;
- Local industry is not sufficiently developed;
- It manifests the lack of local jobs;

OPPORTUNITIES

- Ability to attract young families by creating new jobs;
- Funding opportunities in 2014-2020 from EU grants;
- Potential agricultural development of livestock sector in particular;
- Simplification of administrative procedures to encourage domestic and foreign investors;
- The opportunity of establishing social enterprises;
- Access to education for disadvantaged people;
- Establishment of medical services at home;

THREATS

- Failure to comply with the principle of sustainable exploitation of natural resources can lead to the onset of major imbalances in the eco-system;
- Migration of skilled labor in other areas or abroad;
- Delays in infrastructure investments in the area reduces investments and decreases quality of life of local residents;
- Children left home by parents working abroad;
- The temptation of social benefits at the expense of paid work;
- No correlation between educational needs of the local labor market;

The main development directions identified strategies

The existence and further development of infrastructure elements is a necessity, a guarantee of stability for the population, making it a priority to provide basic infrastructure for local residents living conditions close to conditions in urban areas in Romania. The main strategic directions of development identified through research conducted to ensure basic infrastructure the residents of this community are:

- Modernization of transport and communications;
- Development of non-agricultural activities in the village;
- Introducing the gas network;
- Extending the network of public lighting;
- Fitting cultural center.

CONCLUSION

Agriculture (crop and livestock) is the locality's economy branch that may soon become a competitive one, the economic sector which provides a large part of the population working conditions and living to which they are linked to several sectors of economic life (trade, services, tourism and manufacturing).

Infrastructure development should be one of the priorities of local development strategy as it contributes to improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the village, allows quick access to major roads national and international, and also may be one of the factors of attraction for investors.

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