

BACOVA - A FACTOR OF EVOLUTION OF THE AREA TOWARDS COMPETITIVENESS AND DYNAMISM

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Abstract: The village of Bacova lies in region of transition between the hilly area and plains, its climate is of a temperate continental nature with influences of the Mediterranean type. By analyzing this village, we intend to disclose different aspects of its demographic, economic, social and cultural resources, necessary to identify whether this location has the potential to become a dynamic, prosperous and competitive community, attractive for investors and able to offer its inhabitants a higher quality of life.

Key words: population, economic situation, evolution, potential, land resources

INTRODUCTION

Bacova is crossed by the railroad Timișoara-Buziaș-Lugoj and has its own railway station in Bacova. The village borders in the West to Chevereșu Mare, in the North to Sârbova, in the East to Buziaș and in the South to Vucova. Bacova is situated 118 m above sea level. [6]



Figure 1. Localisation of the village of Bacova within the Timiș County

Source: Personal processing after <https://distanta.net/bacova-buzias-timis-ro-1002584820> [17]

With a population of 1,500 persons, the village of Bacova in Banat has only parallel and straight streets, and in satellite images you can see that its form is an almost perfect rectangle [8], [18].

Its form (very unusual for a village in Romania) can easily be explained: the village has been founded by German settlers.[3], [16]



Figure 2. Satellite View of Bacova, Timiș County

Source: Personal processing after <https://www.google.com/maps/search/bacova+satelit> [18]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methods and materials applied in this work are meant to analyze the village of Bacova. The data and information used in this analysis I have obtained from the Town Hall of Buziaș and from the National Institute for Statistics. In order to accomplish this work an extensive process of documentation and analyzing was necessary. All data and information had to be sorted out, graphically represented and interpreted. [2], [8], [10]

RESEARCH RESULTS

With Bacova I met a favourable environment, which allowed its inhabitants to settle far back as 1783 in this area. In 1880 Bacova had 1,748 inhabitants. In Table 1. I present the evolution of the number of inhabitants from that period up to the present. [3], [11]

Table 1.

The evolution of the inhabitants of Bacova between 1880-2019

Years	2019	2011	2002	1992	1977	1941	1900	1880
Number of inhabitants	1506	1500	1544	1424	1712	2142	2099	1748

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș [10]

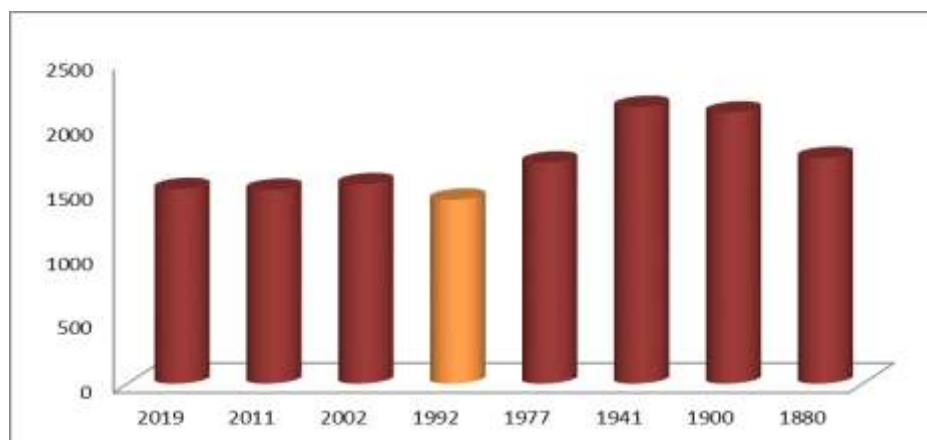


Figure 3. The evolution of inhabitants Bacova (1880-2019)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș [10]

In the above diagram we can remark that the population of Bacova has increased during the period 1880-1941. [14]

As from 1977 the population has significantly decreased. In 1992 is registered the lowest number of inhabitants. [4]

The structure of the population of Bacova, by the main age groups.

When analyzing the data it is obvious that the prevailing age group in Bacova is that between 15 and 64 de years (66,06% in 2019), followed by the age group over 65 years (23,34% in 2019). The following chart presents the age categories in the analyzed village. [5], [10]

Table 2.

The Structure of the Population by Age Groups, Bacova

Specification	2018		2019	
	Number	%	Number	%
0-5 years	37	2.45	30	1.99
6-14 years	127	8.41	135	8.96
15-64 years	966	63.97	989	65.67
Over 65 years	380	25.17	352	23.37
OVERALL	1510	100	1506	100

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș Year 2019[10]

In Figure 4 I have presented the evolution of the population by age groups for the years 2018 and 2019. A slight decrease of the total number can be observed.

The next figure (Figure 5) shows us the weighting of the main age groups in the year 2019. Thus the largest weighting is that of the age group between 15 and 64 years, followed by the catory over 65 years. [6], [9]

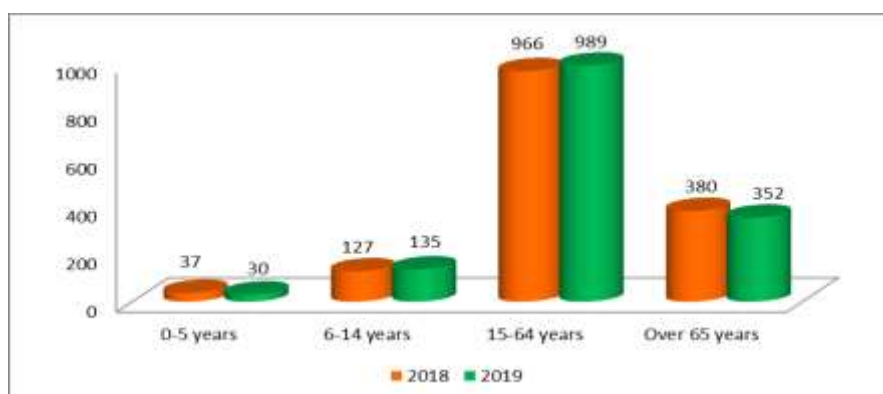


Figure 4. The evolution of the population by age groups (2018-2019)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș Year 2019[10]

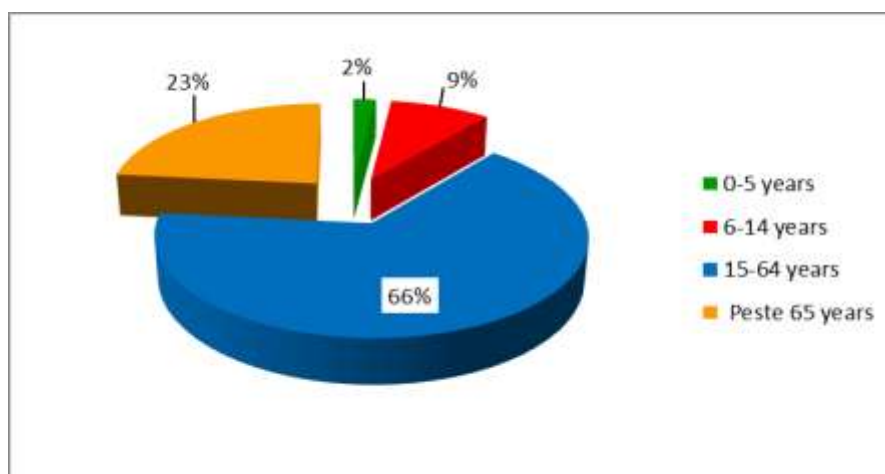


Figure 5. The structure of the population by age groups (year 2019, %)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș 2019 [10]

In Table 3. it can be observed how much the ethnic structure of the village has changed since 1858, when the greatest part of the population was o German origin, while in 2011 the majority of inhabitants was Romanian. [12]

Table 3.

The ethnic structure of the population between 1858 and 2011

Year	1858	1880	1900	1941	1977	1992	2002	2011
Romanians	63	23	39	29	277	1046	1312	1290
Germans	1184	1636	1971	2090	1433	241	105	98
Hungarians	118	63	71	21	28	44	50	40
Other ethnic groups	281	26	18	2	24	93	77	72

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaş, year 2011 [10]

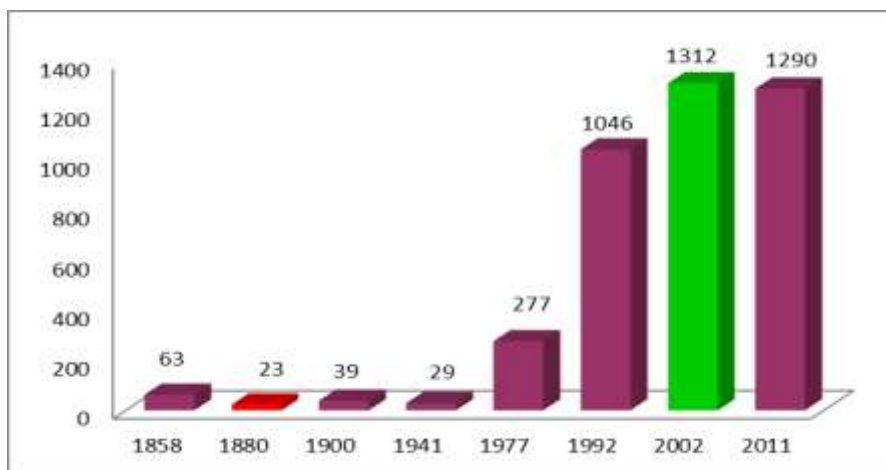


Figure 6. The evolution of the Romanian ethnic population (1885-2011)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaş, year 2011[10]

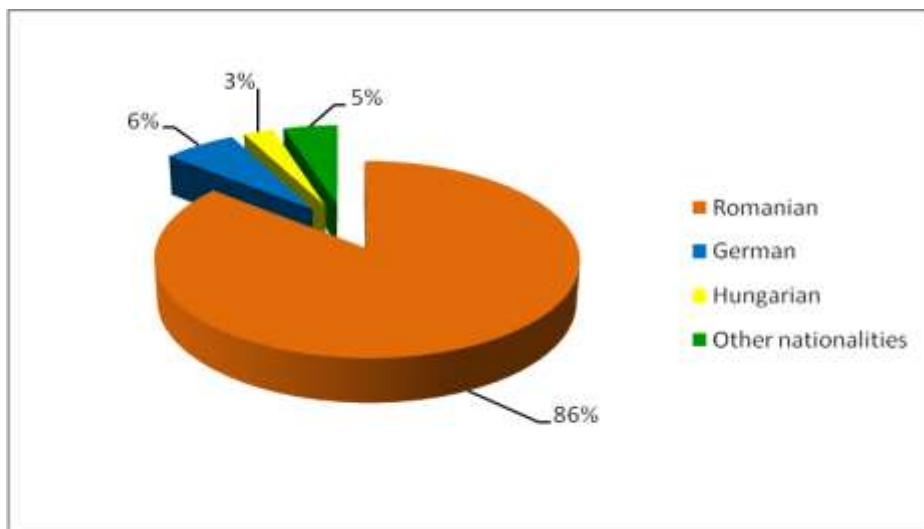


Figure 7. The ethnic structure of the population 2011

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaş year 2011[10]

Economic activities in the village of Bacova. The administrative territory of the village of Bacova comprises a total surface of 1,106.04 hectares. Of the data gathered form the Town Hall of Bacova the situation of the lands is the following: within the built-up

there are 114 hectares while the lands in the outside built-up area cover a surface of 992.04 hectares (Table 4). [152]

Table 4.

The situation of the lands in the village of Bacova

SPECIFICATION	Within the built-up area	Outside the built-up area	TOTAL SURFACE
Hectares	114	992.04	1,106.04

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019[10]

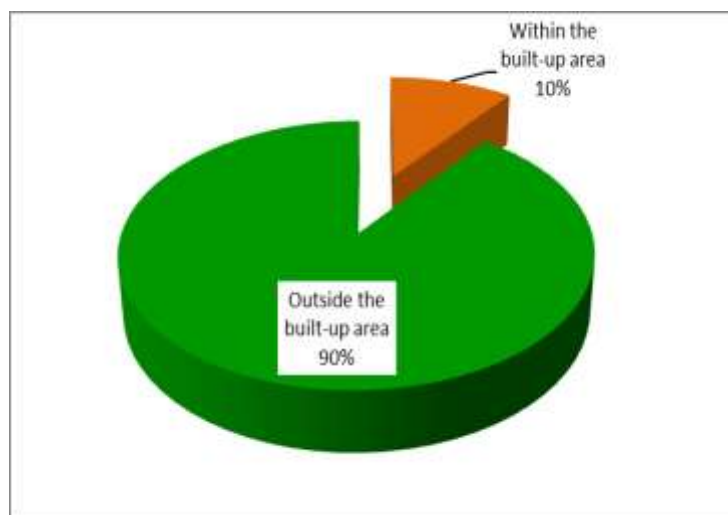


Figure 8. The situation of the lands in Bacova (%)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019[10]

Figure 8, presents the percentage in the allotment of the lands in the analyzed village (the built-up area, the outside built-up area). [8]

Table 5.

Agricultural structure, village of Bacova

Specification	Hectares	%
Plough land	744.11	77.08
Grazing land	144	14.91
Meadows	77.24	8.00
AGRICULTURAL SURFACE	965.35	100

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019 [10]

Table 6.

Non-agricultural structure, village of Bacova

Specification	Hectares	%
Woods and other forest vegetation	3.94	14.76
Water surface, ponds	5.65	21.16
Communication systems, rail road	12.88	48.25
Degraded and waste lands	4.22	15.83
NON-AGRICULTURAL SURFACE	26.69	100

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019[10]

In Table 5 and 6 I presented the structure of the land resources in the analyzed village. It can be observed that of the total surface of 992.04 hectares, the largest part is

occupied by the agricultural surface 965.35 hectares, while the non-agricultural surface occupies only 36,69 hectares .[1], [12]

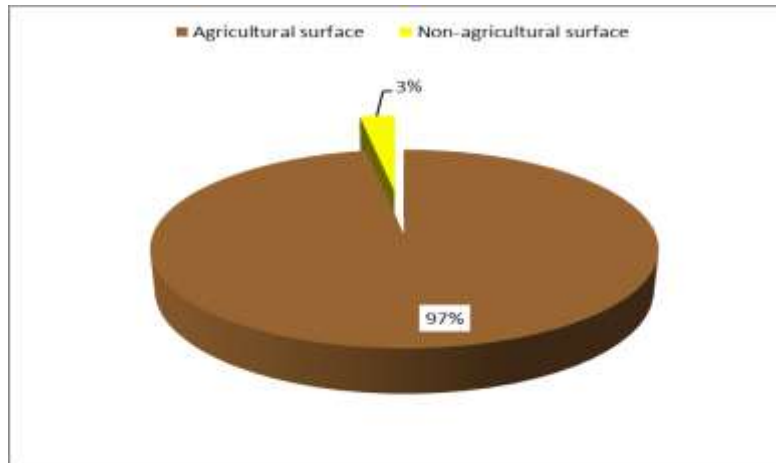


Figure 9. The structure of the land resources (%)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019, [10]

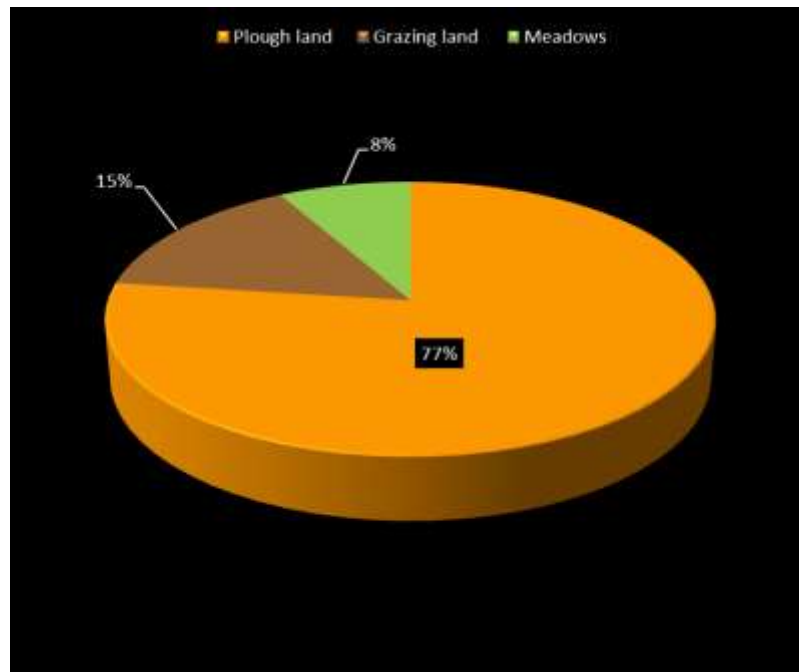


Figure 10. The structure of the agricultural surface by classes of use (%)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019, [10]

Figure 9 presents the overall structure of the land resources in the village of Bacova. Figures 10 and 11, point out the structure of the agricultural surface by classes of use (%) and the structure of the non-agricultural surface in hectares. [8], [12]

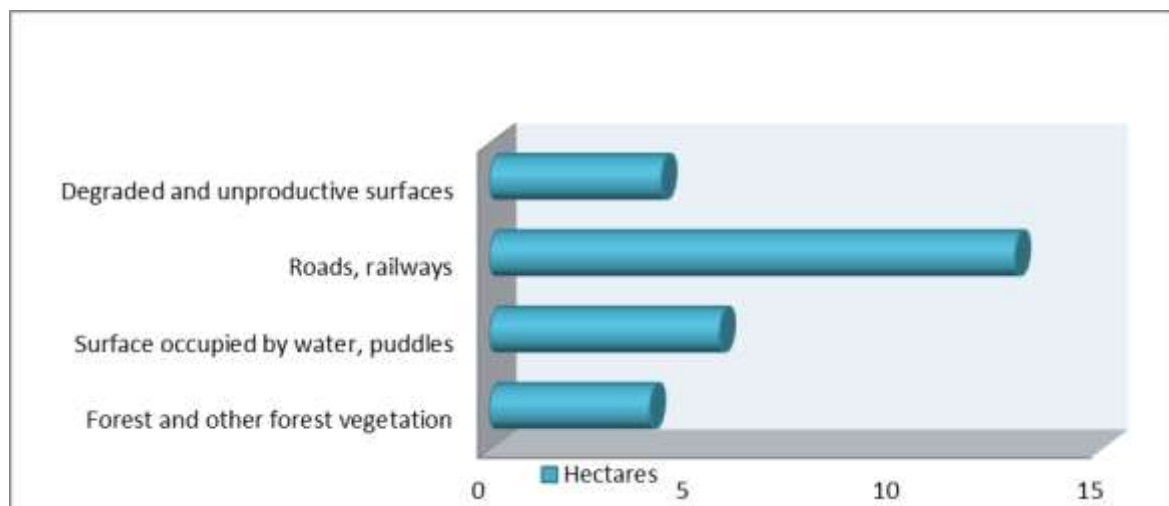


Figure 11. The structure of the non-agricultural surface (ha)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș Year 2019

In Bacova, the agricultural surface is cultivated with: wheat, sunflower, barley, soy bean, chicken corn and alfalfa. The largest surface is cultivated with wheat, sunflower and corn. (Table 7.) [11]

Table 7.

The surfaces occupied by the main cultures, village of Bacova

Specification	Wheat	Sunflower	Corn	Barley	Soy bean	Chicken Corn	Alfalfa	TOTAL
Hectares	240	170	130	74	40	60	30.11	744.11
%	32.25	22.84	17.47	9.94	5.37	8.06	4.07	100

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019, [10]

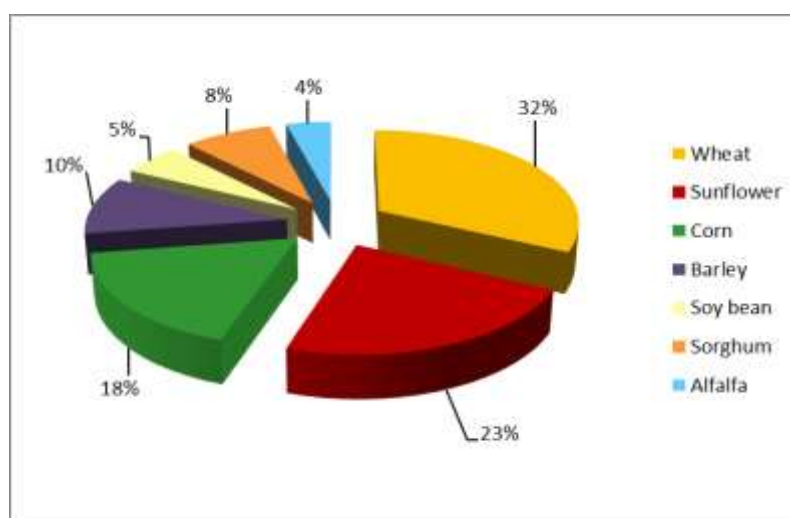


Figure 12. Allotment of the main cultures (%)

Source: Processing according to data form the Town Hall of Buziaș, year 2019, [10]

In Figure 12. we can see the allotment of the surfaces for the main cultures in the analyzed village. The largest surface is allotted to the wheat culture (240 ha), while the smallest surface is allotted to alfalfa (30,11 ha). [11]

The tradition of viticulture in Bacova goes back to the time when the first Germans came as settlers to this area, and who realized, that the quality of the soil (volcanic) on the Silagiului Hill (Dealul Silagiului) is fit for winegrowing and have fully exploited this quality. [13]

But by the year 1890, the settlers, who have been to America have brought with them new varieties and together with these new varieties they brought also one of the most dangerous enemies for any wine grower: phyloxera (*Daktulosphoria vitifoliae* or *Viteus vitifoliae*), which has destroyed all the grape vines in the village. After a few yeas the villagers have renewed the cultures, this time prevailing the resistant hybrid varieties, which have been grafted. [7], [15]

Unfortunately, nowadays viticulture no longer a topic in Bacova. The greatest part of the vineyards have either grown wild or are partially dried out. [12]

I worked out for the analyzed village a short SWOT Analysis, to understand better the existing situation and to suggest measures that should be taken.

Table 8.

SWOT analysis in Bacova

Strengths	Very favourable geographic conditions for the development of tourism, viticulture and economy Water supply existent School infrastructure on pre-school, primary and grammar school level Repopulation of Bacova after the citizens of German origin have almost all emigrated Air pollution is reduced.
Weaknesses	No asphalt roads and streets, inappropriate ditches and platforms, which increase the flooding of the area, the unmodernized alleyways and footways No local transportation, no proper railway station building No complementary activities in tourism The Community Centre in Bacova has no lavatories Valuable architectural assets but in an advanced state od degradation Old information programs, level of instruction is middle Lack of employment, tendency of increasing unemployment Excessive school absenteeism Poor development of agritourism, the park in Bacova is untended
Opportunities	Favourable geographic conditions for the development of agritourism A growing interest in local traditional products Tradition in viticulture, in wine producing, stockbreeding
Threats	Socio-economical effects of destabilization due to migration Limited EU funds and governmental funds Demographic decrease Aging population

Source: Processing after the data of the local development strategy Buzias [12]

CONCLUSIONS

The target of this work is to identify the weaknesses, but also the strengths of the village of Bacova. Even if is a village of just 1,500 inhabitants, a greater emphasis should be laid on the evolution of the number of the inhabitants. Beside the census of the population every 10 year, it would be of great help to renew the population records each 2 or 3 years. A revolving centralization of the structure of the population, by age, sex, religion would be of great help for the community. Beside the above mentioned data there are missing the data concerning the birth and death rate and the migration of the population outside the village.

Notwithstanding the fact that in Bacova there is a flag station, there is no proper railway station to offer the necessary service. As there is no local transportation, people who work in other places face great problems.

The village has no sewerage system, there are only septic tanks. Although the village had been included in a project concerning the building of a sewerage system, up to this moment nothing has been done in this respect, while the time limit of the project was set for this year.

The data concerning the economic activity are very poor. Although the arable surface is rather large I have not found any records concerning the main cultures in the area. Wheat growing acreage is the largest, followed by sunflower and corn growing. There is no evidence available regarding the productions with this cultures or their evolution in time.

All what is known is that in past times the village was known for its wine growing. The preferred varieties were: Banat Riesling (Zackelweiß), Portuguese, white and red Schiller, etc. In fact, there are no longer large vineyards in Bacova in present times. Only a few villagers grow wine for their own use. Wine growing would create an important advantage for the village, it would create employment opportunities and could be an attraction for tourists, if there would be the possibility to visit the vineyards and to participate in wine tastings.

Stock breeding is also poorly developed. It could be successful by creating small farmsteads and by promoting local producers.

There is no tourism in the analyzed village, though there are some sights worth visiting: the Catholic Church, built in 1867 and the Orthodox Church built in 1889. The inhabitants having fairly developed households could offer accommodation to tourists visiting the area, having thus the possibility to participate or not in the activities in the household.

As far as I can see, the greatest help in the development of the village would be creating working place, by founding small factories in different domains of activity. Thus the inhabitants would not have to commute to other localities and those without any source of income could have a stable working place.

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