

ASPECTS REGARDING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LENAUHEIM COMMUNE, TIMIȘ COUNTY

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Abstract: *In a society in constant evolution, the sustainable development of local communities is a crucial aspect for ensuring well-being and progress at the regional and national level. The study consists in identifying and understanding the factors that influence the development and quality of life in the commune of Lenauheim. The research methodology includes bibliographic study and the main methods of rural space analysis: multicriteria analysis and SWOT analysis. The natural, demographic, and economic resources of the commune, as well as the available infrastructure and public services, are researched. At the end of the paper, the authors identify the priority areas for the sustainable development of the commune: infrastructure, investments, local entrepreneurship, public services, environmental protection, tourism, and local culture.*

Key words: *Lenauheim, sustainable development, analysis, resources*

INTRODUCTION

The sustainable development of rural space is a concept that aims to improve the living conditions of rural communities, while preserving the ecological balance and exploiting local resources in a responsible way. This involves integrating economic, social and environmental components into rural development policies to ensure sustainable and equitable progress. In rural areas, sustainable development is essential for preventing depopulation, raising living standards and protecting natural heritage [2,3,8].

One of the main objectives of sustainable development in rural areas is to diversify the local economy. In addition to agriculture, which remains a basic economic activity, other activities are promoted, such as rural tourism, traditional crafts and the local food industry. These activities not only provide employment opportunities for rural residents, but also contribute to the preservation of local traditions and culture. Such measures can reduce economic dependence on the agricultural sector and create more resilient communities [1,5,6].

Developing rural infrastructure and services is another important aspect of sustainable development. Investments in roads, utilities, health services and education are essential for improving the quality of life and reducing rural-urban disparities. With appropriate policies and access to European funding, villages can become more attractive to residents, especially young people, which helps to combat rural-urban migration [14, 15].

The sustainable development of rural areas also involves protecting the environment. In this regard, ecological agricultural practices, efficient management of natural resources and the promotion of renewable energies are encouraged. Sustainable agriculture, based on environmentally friendly methods, helps to reduce the negative impact on local ecosystems and ensure a clean environment for future generations [4, 10, 16].

In a constantly evolving society, the sustainable development of local communities is a crucial aspect for ensuring well-being and progress at the regional and national level. Municipalities, as basic administrative units, play an essential role in the development and organization of local communities, having the responsibility of providing essential services and promoting the socio-economic development of their inhabitants [7,9].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research methodology includes bibliographic study and the main methods of rural space analysis: multicriteria analysis and SWOT analysis.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Lenaueim commune is in the western part of Timiș county (figure 1), at 45 km from the municipality of Timișoara and 14 km from the nearest town, Jimbolia.

The commune includes several three villages: Lenaueim - the residence of the commune, Bulgăruș and Grabaș. Compared to the residence of the commune, the villages are located 4.4 km in the case of Grabaș village and 5.6 km in the case of Bulgăruș village [11].



Figure 1. Location of Lenaueim commune on the Timiș county map
 Source: https://ro.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fi%C8%99ier:Harta_jud_Timis.svg [17]

The population of the commune of Lenaueim increased from 5,676 inhabitants in 2002 to 7,003 inhabitants in 2021. (figure 2)

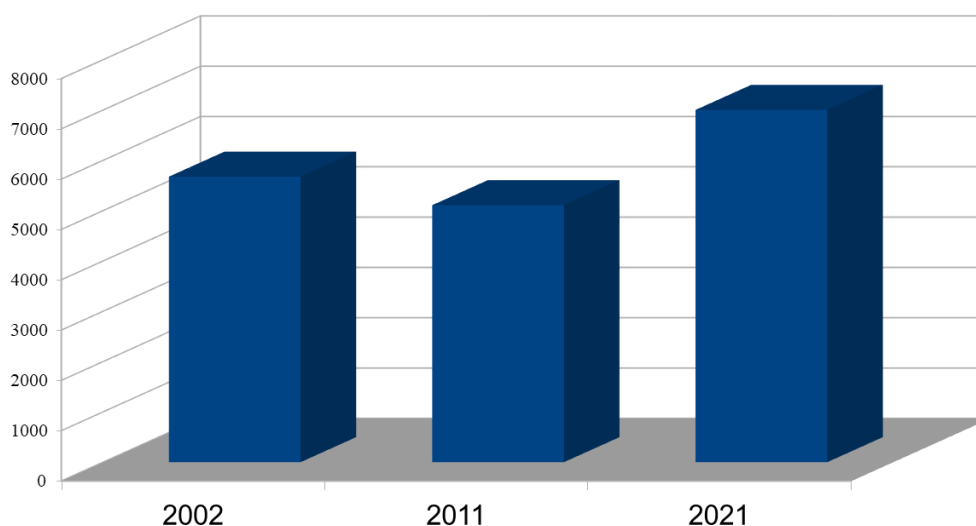


Figure 2. The evolution of the population of Lenaueim during the period 2002-2021

The prevailing average age in Lenaueim is 15-59 years, and the 60 and over category is slightly higher than the 0-14 years .

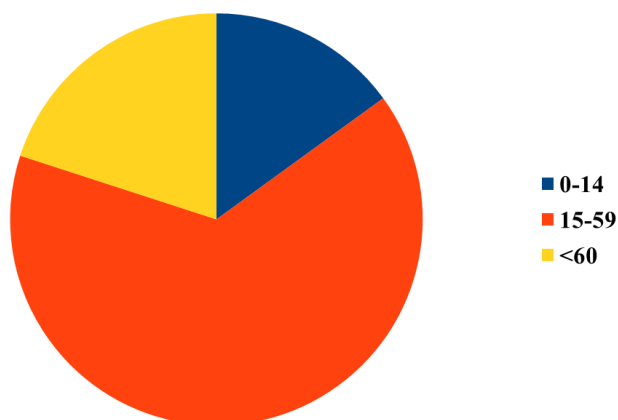


Figure 3. Population structure by age groups in Lenaueim commune in 2021

Regarding the natural movement of the population, a positive population increase can be observed in the commune until the level of 2017, after which even if the number of births began to increase, the number of deaths increased considerably, thus leading to a negative natural increase [12]. (Table 1)

Table 1.

Natural population movement in Lenaueim commune

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Born	29	41	46	51
Deaths	18	32	60	65
Natural growth	+11	+9	-14	-14

The basic economic activity of the commune of Lenaueim is agriculture with its two branches, the vegetable sector and animal husbandry, activities favored by the commune's position in the middle of the plain area.

The commune of Lenaueim is a commune where agricultural activities predominate, so it is part of the intermediate rural space.

The land area available to Lenaueim commune is 11,275 ha of land, of which approximately 10,521 are agricultural lands (93.31%), most of them merged (almost 9,000 ha – 6.69%) [13].

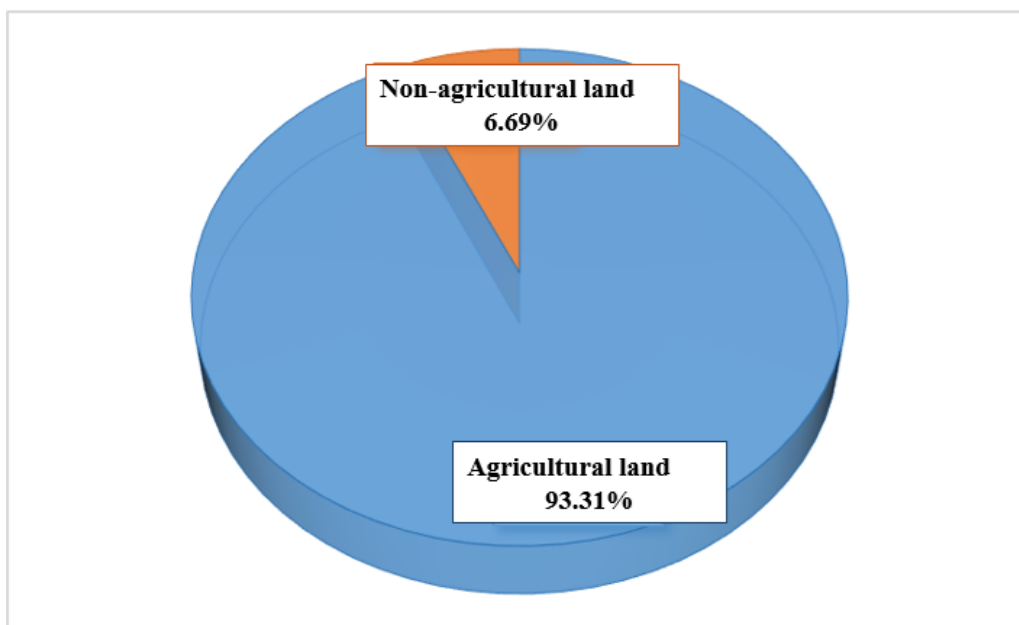


Figure 4. The structure of the land fund of Lenaheim commune

The structure of the agricultural land of Lenaheim commune: arabil land 95.89%, vineyards 3.83%, orchards 0,16% and pastures 0,12% (figure 5).

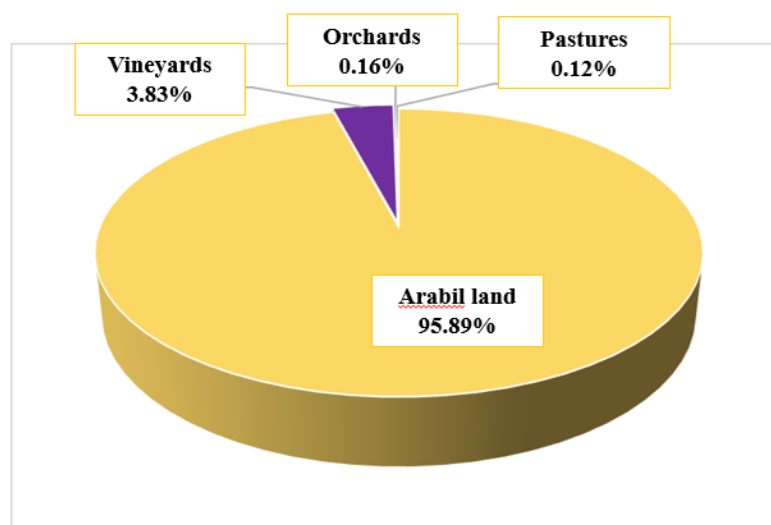


Figure 5. The structure of the agricultural land of Lenaheim commune

Regarding the technical-building infrastructure, the municipality of Lenaheim has a centralized water supply system, an electricity supply system and waste management, road infrastructure, telecommunications services and medical and educational services, as well as other public institutions that serve local population: town hall, police, banking units, post office, cultural center, churches.

Following the multi-criteria analysis, a SWOT analysis of the studied area was carried out. The SWOT analysis helps to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the municipality of Lenaheim, but also to identify development opportunities and possible threats that may stand in the way of its development.

Table 2.

SWOT analysis of Lenauheim commune

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to the commune, through three important cities: Jimbolia, Sânnicolau Mare, Timișoara • Strategic geographical position due to the existence of three border crossing points in the area: Lunga and Jimbolia with Serbia and Cenad with Hungary • The existence of fertile soils favoring the practice of agriculture • 99% of the agricultural area is exploited • Of the 10,000 hectares of agricultural land, 9,000 are merged • Good communication between the town hall and citizens • There is a social assistance department in the town hall • The existence of schools and their kindergartens in all three component villages • There are thermal water resources in the community • Attractive area from a tourist and landscape point of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural growth is negative • Obsolete access infrastructure • Electricity and telecommunications network in need of rehabilitation • Lack of a specialized medical center • Lack of sewage network • Lack of natural gas supply network • Thermal water resources are not exploited • There is no medical permanence • The existence of long-term unemployment, which leads to the disqualification and discouragement of former employees, high percentage among the population with low incomes • The migration of young people to the urban environment • Lack of a centralized system for selling agricultural products • Underdeveloped leisure tourism • Weak promotion of the rural area and specific products
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to European funds intended for the development of rural areas • Adaptation of educational programs to the requirements of the market economy • Creation of small businesses, farms and micro-farms to attract labor • Organization of cultural-educational contests to attract and motivate students and young people • The establishment of livestock farms, vegetable and flower greenhouses as well as a fish farm • Favorable conditions for obtaining ecological products, which can be exported under particularly advantageous conditions • Capitalizing on the tourist and agro-tourism potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging of the population due to the reduced number of children born in relation to deceased persons • Increasing unemployment among young graduates • Increasing the share of undeclared work, with negative effects on the labor market • Labor migration • Fading of local traditions, with the passage of time • Erosion and degradation of soil quality, which can lead to a decrease in yield • High frequency of dry periods in agriculture • Poor information of farmers regarding the European rules

CONCLUSIONS

Following the analysis undertaken for the realization of this work, it is found that the town of Lenauheim has a high development potential, but which is not sufficiently exploited. The geographical position of the commune, in the western part of the country, is a very important element that could contribute to the harmonious development of the commune, from a socio-economic, cultural and tourist point of view.

In order to ensure the economic development of the commune of Lenauheim, it is necessary to consider the following objectives:

- modernization of road infrastructure (repairs of access roads, development of intersections in the commune, development of tracks for cyclists on the main arteries of the localities;

- the technical and building equipment of the commune: the existing electrical installations must be modernized in order to maintain the capacity of electricity transport and distribution; telephone installations require modern technology;

- the need for a centralized sewage network and the existence of a sewage treatment plant; the drainage system must be rehabilitated: resizing of the collecting channels for the

transport of increased flows; the existence of pumping stations on these collecting channels to speed up the process of evacuating excess water; completing the network of existing drainage channels.

In this context, we believe that the involvement of the local administration in attracting funds that allow the development of the municipality in all areas of social life becomes an essential condition for the sustainable development of the municipality of Lenauheim.

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