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STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIBIȘ COMMUNITY THROUGH NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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Abstract: *This study analyzes the current status and strategic directions of economic diversification of Fibiș commune, Timiș county, through the lens of non-agricultural activities. Although the local economy has historically been linked to agriculture, the community is currently demonstrating a dynamic transition towards diversified private entrepreneurship. The main purpose of the study is to evaluate the existing non-agricultural profile and its impact on the sustainable socio-economic development of the commune. The methodology is based on documentary analysis of public sources, databases on economic agents, and available financial information. It was identified the existence of a diversified economic structure, where non-agricultural activities in the production and construction sectors, hygiene and beautification, public catering, technical services, health services, complete the rural profile of the commune and directly contribute to attracting income to the local budget. In conclusion, the real presence and success of these non-agricultural entities demonstrate the economic viability of the Fibiș commune.*

Introduction

This study focuses on analyzing the development strategy of the Fibiș commune in Timiș County-a locality characterized by dynamic evolution and significant economic and spatial potential. Situated in the northeastern part of Timiș County, 30 kilometers from the city of Timișoara, the Fibiș commune benefits from a strategic location, being traversed by the county road DJ691 (Timișoara-Lipova).

The motivation for choosing this topic stems from the need to demonstrate that a commune located within the sphere of influence of a metropolis can evolve beyond being a strictly agrarian area. Fibiș serves as an ideal case study for examining how private enterprise and local infrastructure can support a resilient, hybrid economy.

Material and method

The methodological stages of this study incorporate established methods used in the fields of economics and rural geography. These include:

The direct field observation method - the primary approach used to inventory and verify the actual existence of non-agricultural businesses in Fibiș. This stage enabled an assessment of the spatial distribution of these businesses and their level of accessibility from the DJ691 county road.

The comparative and structural analysis method - the identified economic activities were categorized by sector to measure the degree of economic diversification and to demonstrate a reduction in the commune's dependence on agriculture.

The documentary analysis method - this involved a review of specialized literature concerning the economic transformation of rural areas located near major urban hubs, as well as an examination of economic sustainability criteria specific to rural environments in the Western Region.

Results and discussions

The research results are structured according to the main non-agricultural activity sectors identified and their contribution to the commune's economic development.

Identification and classification of non-agricultural economic activities

The first stage of the research focused on identifying economic activities outside the agricultural sector and classifying them based on their functional profile. This approach highlights the degree of economic diversification and the ways in which various activities contribute to the functioning of the community.

Following the analysis, non-agricultural activities were grouped into seven main categories:

- Trade and services;
- Construction and technical services;
- Production workshops and processing activities;
- Transport and logistics;
- Food service (catering/hospitality);
- Medical services;
- Hygiene and beauty services.

Table 1

The situation of companies in Fibis, broken down by CAEN codes

Code CAEN	Domain	Number of records
0111	Cultivation of cereals and oilseeds	15
4120	Building construction	14
4711	Retail trade	12
4941	Road freight transport	11
4333	Floor and wall covering	7
5630	Bars and beverage serving	6
5610	Restaurants	4
9602	Hairdressing and beauty services	3
1071	Manufacture of bread and pastry products	3

The research findings highlight several economic and social effects resulting from the development of non-agricultural activities.

Table 2

The impact of economic diversification on the community

Dimension analyzed	The effect of economic diversification
Economic	Increase in the number of activities and diversification of income sources
Occupational	Emergence of professional opportunities outside of agriculture
Social	Better access to services and products
Territorial	Diversification of the functions of rural areas
Entrepreneurial	Strengthening of private enterprise
Regional	Intensification of economic ties with Timișoara

Conclusions

Following the economic and territorial analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The economy of Fibiș commune features a diversified structure, in which non-agricultural activities complement the traditional agricultural function. The presence of sectors such as construction, trade, transport, food service, and personal services highlights an entrepreneurial base with varied profiles.
2. Trade and construction are significant sectors within the structure of registered businesses. Data regarding CAEN codes show 14 entries for construction works and 12 for retail trade, underscoring the presence of these activities in the local economic landscape.
3. Transport is a relevant sector for connecting the local economy to the regional market. The presence of road freight transport activities, combined with the commune's location along the DJ691 county road, creates conditions for developing economic ties with other localities.
4. The local entrepreneurial environment is characterized by the prominence of small-scale enterprises. Data available for 2025 indicate 237 employees across 71 firms that have submitted financial statements, highlighting the contribution of these enterprises to local economic activity.
5. The geographical location serves as a competitive advantage for the development of non-agricultural activities. Proximity to the municipality of Timișoara facilitates access to markets, suppliers, infrastructure, and human resources.
6. Economic diversification has the potential to generate positive impacts on the community by creating professional opportunities, increasing access to services, and strengthening local economic autonomy.

Overall, the results support the idea that Fibiș is undergoing a process of economic transformation typical of rural communities located within the sphere of influence of a major urban center.

The research findings highlight that the development of the Fibiș commune through non-agricultural activities represents a significant process of rural economic diversification. The presence of enterprises in sectors such as trade, construction, transport, manufacturing, and services demonstrates that the locality's economic functions extend well beyond the traditional scope of agriculture. In this context, Fibiș can be viewed as a rural community undergoing functional diversification, where non-agricultural activities contribute to strengthening the local economy, increasing employment opportunities, and improving living conditions.

In conclusion, the Fibiș commune serves as a model of best practice in Timiș County, demonstrating that a dynamic rural environment - supported by a diverse range of non-agricultural enterprises - can foster sustainable development, economic prosperity, and a high quality of life for its entire community.