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ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF SIMERIA LOCALITY, HUNEDOARA COUNTY

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Abstract: The study analyzes the demographic, agricultural and tourist profile of the Simeria locality in Hunedoara county. Through this study, we highlighted the main territorial transformations and local development prospects. Demographic trends during the analyzed period show a population decline of approximately 12.3%, driven by a falling birth rate and an increasingly aging population. The analysis of the land fund highlights the decrease in agricultural areas and the expansion of non-agricultural areas, while the crop structure shows the importance of cereals and some horticultural plants. The locality tourism potential is supported by its natural and landscape resources, as well as its historical background and existing accommodation facilities. The SWOT analysis presents the advantages of geographical positioning and accessibility, along with demographic vulnerabilities and insufficient capitalization of local resources.

• Introduction

Simeria (Hungarian: *Piski*) is a locality in Hunedoara County, Transilvania, Romania. It comprises the town of Simeria itself (the administrative seat) and the villages of Bârcea Mare, Cărpiniș, Sântandrei, Simeria Veche, Șăulești, and Uroi. It is located in the western part of the country, in the Mureș River floodplain, at the confluence of the Mureș and Strei rivers, between the Apuseni and Retezat mountains. Historically, the economy of Simeria relied on the robust development of rail transport in the area. Simeria holds substantial tourism potential, stemming both from its natural heritage and its favorable geographical location within Hunedoara County The town's primary tourist attraction is the Simeria Arboretum—one of the oldest and most valuable dendrological reserves in Romania—which draws numerous visitors each year who are interested in nature and biodiversity.

• Material and method

The research was based on the analysis and interpretation of statistical data concerning demographic trends, land use structure, agricultural activities, and the tourism potential of the town of Simeria. The methodology included a comparative analysis of data across available periods, the calculation of absolute and percentage variations, and the graphical representation of key indicators.

To assess local development prospects, a SWOT analysis was employed, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Based on the findings, strategic directions were formulated, aimed at the sustainable utilization of local resources and enhancing the appeal of the town of Simeria.

• Results and discussions

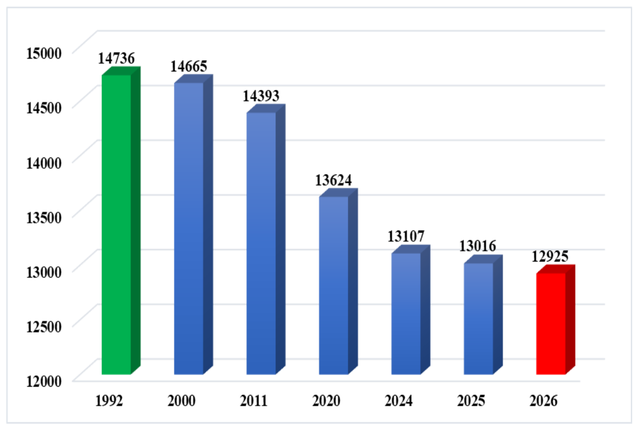


Figure 1. Status of the total population in the locality

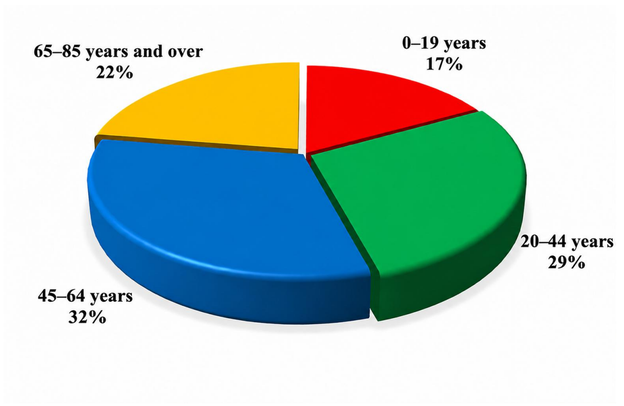


Figure 2. Evidence of main age groups 2026*

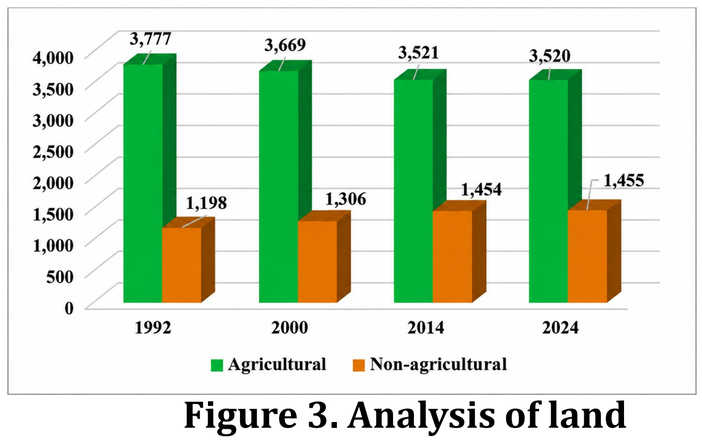


Figure 3. Analysis of land resources in the locality

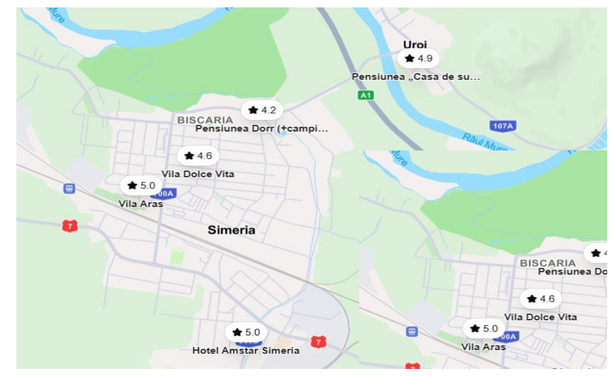


Figure 4. The main tourist structures of the locality

Internal Factors	Key Elements
Strengths	favorable geographical location; good road and railway accessibility; industrial and railway traditions; presence of an entrepreneurial environment; valuable natural heritage; Simeria Arboretum; the Uroiului Hill; cultural and built heritage; proximity to Deva and Hunedoara; existence of local strategic documents
Weaknesses	small local market size; demographic vulnerabilities; active population migration; need for economic diversification; proximity to major urban centers and competition; insufficient valorization of tourist potential; need to modernize components of mobility and public space
External Factors	**Key Elements**
Opportunities	European and national funding; development of green infrastructure; urban regeneration; proximity tourism and ecotourism; integration into county tourist circuits; attraction of investments; development of logistics and services; digitalization; professional training; development of the residential function
Threats	population aging; youth migration; competition from larger cities; economic instability; dependence on certain sectors; delays in the implementation of investments; effects of climate change; degradation of heritage

Figure 5. Summary of the SWOT analysis



Conclusions

The analysis carried out on the locality highlights the existence of a territory with diversified natural, agricultural, tourist and economic resources, but also with a series of vulnerabilities that may influence its evolution in the medium and long term.

Furthermore, the crop structure points to a high degree of specialization. Maize and winter wheat together account for approximately 85% of the area under cereal cultivation (based on 2014 data), while potatoes occupy 68.58% of the land dedicated to horticultural crops. Tourism represents one of the sectors with the greatest development potential for Simeria. The locality possesses a varied natural and cultural heritage, most notably the Simeria Arboretum—covering an area of approximately 69 hectares—and Măgura Uroiului, as well as historical and architectural landmarks such as the Bela Fay Castle, the Simeria railway station, the archaeological sites in the Uroi–Măgura Uroiului area, and various historical churches. Simeria can be characterized as a locality with development potential rooted in accessibility, economic diversification, natural heritage, and regional integration.