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SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF IECEA MARE COMMUNE, TIMIȘ COUNTY

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Abstract: The paper analyzes the level of socio-economic development of Iecea Mare Commune, Timiș County, and aims to identify the main directions of intervention for sustainable development. The research employs a multicriteria analysis and relevant statistical indicators drawn from official sources. The results indicate a positive demographic dynamic and a high share of young population, along with a steady improvement of technical and utility infrastructure. Although the local economy is still dominated by agriculture, the strategic location near Timișoara provides significant potential for diversification and investment attraction. The analysis highlights the need to strengthen public services, modernize infrastructure, and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

• Introduction

- The paper analyzes the level of socio-economic development of the Iecea Mare commune, Timiș county, a relevant analysis, because socio-economic analyses at the local level are increasingly important in the context of sustainable rural development and territorial planning. The purpose of the research is to identify priority directions of intervention for sustainable development.
- Sustainable rural development represents a complex and integrated process that aims to continuously improve living conditions in rural areas, in balance with environmental protection and the responsible use of natural resources. In the current context, marked by accelerated economic, climate and demographic changes, this concept acquires strategic importance at national and European level. Thus, sustainable development of rural areas requires an integrated approach that combines local economic development, social solidarity and environmental protection. It is essential to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas, improve access to public services (education, health, utilities) and create new employment opportunities, especially for young people.
- Therefore, sustainable rural development in the current context is no longer just an option, but a strategic necessity, which ensures the balance between economic progress, social well-being and environmental conservation for future generations.
- The commune of Iecea Mare, which is the subject of this research, is a commune in Timiș County, Banat Region, Romania, consisting only of the residential village of the same name. The commune of Iecea Mare was established under Law No. 84/2004, separating from the commune of Cărpiniș.



Figure 1 Overview of the Iecea Mare commune

• Material and method

- The methodology used the multi-criteria analysis method and relevant statistical indicators, derived from official sources - the National Institute of Statistics, the 2021 Population and Housing Census, TEMPO-Online, Iecea Mare Commune Hall and General Urban Plan of Iecea Mare, as well as the SWOT analysis method. The multi-criteria analysis carried out for the commune of Iecea Mare, Timiș County, highlights local particularities from the perspective of the seven major areas: physical-geographic, demographic, economic, housing, technical equipment, social and ecological. Following this analysis, the strengths and vulnerabilities of each area were identified, aiming to highlight the potential for sustainable development.

Conclusions

The multi-criteria analysis carried out for the commune of Iecea Mare, using physical-geographic, demographic, economic, technical-urban, social and ecological criteria, highlights a general positive trend in local development, with significant potential for consolidating the quality of life and territorial attractiveness in a regional context.

• Results and discussions

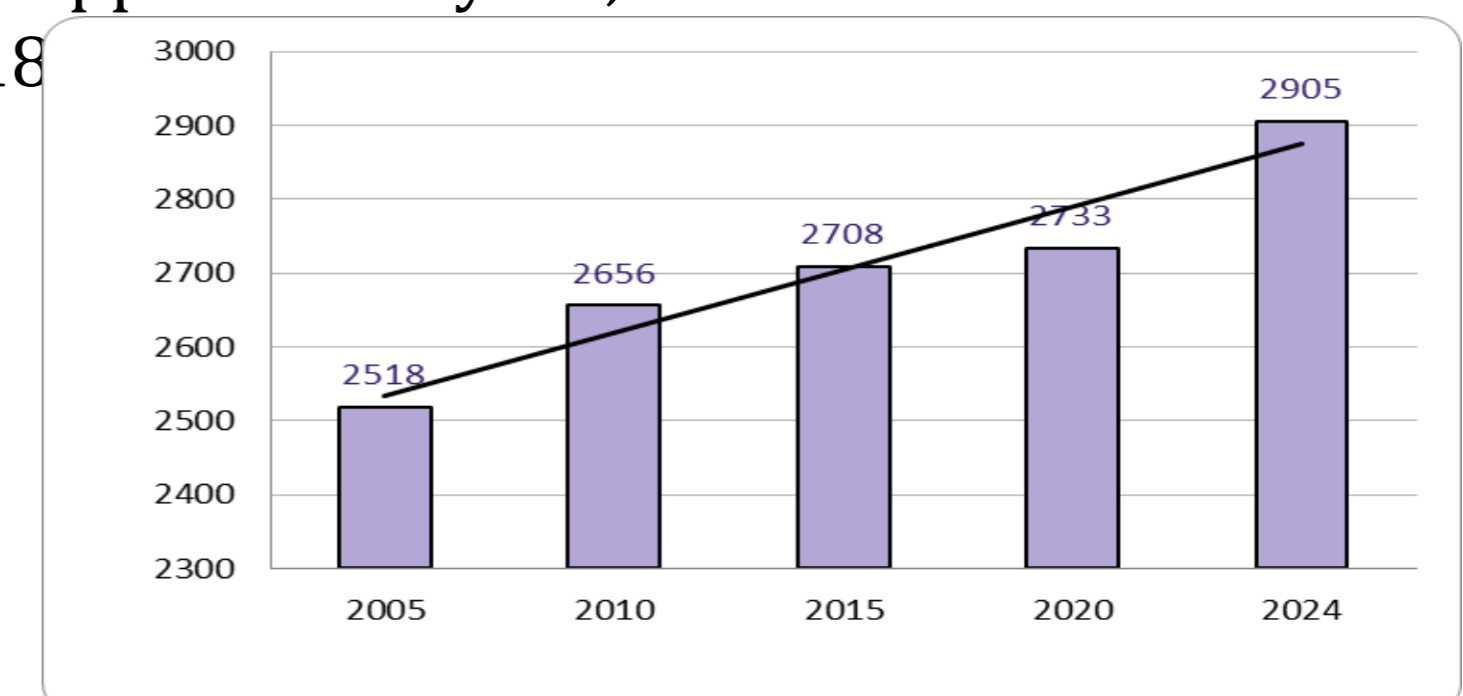
- **Physico-geographical characteristics.** The commune of Iecea Mare is located in the western part of Timiș County, within the lowland area typical of the Banat region, approximately 40 km west of the city of Timișoara. The relief is uniform, with average altitudes ranging between 80 and 100 meters, characteristic of the western plains of Banat, and is highly favorable for mechanized agriculture.



Figure 2 Iecea Mare commune on the map of Timiș county

The population of Iecea Mare commune has registered a slight increase in the last two decades, due to external migration and the aging of the population. According to Tempo-online 2025, the commune had approximately 2,905 inhabitants in 2024, compared to 2,518

Figure 3 The population Evolution of Iecea Mare commune



- The local economy has a predominantly agricultural structure, specific to plain areas. The main activities are cereal cultivation, animal husbandry, and, to a lesser extent, transport services and local trade. In recent years, a gradual diversification of the economic base has been observed, through the emergence of micro-enterprises in the fields of construction, trade and mechanized services. However, the degree of industrialization is low, and private investments are still limited. The commune benefits from access to the markets of Timișoara and Jimbolia, which facilitates the marketing of agricultural products and local labor. Through European programs (PNDR, LEADER), small agricultural modernization and infrastructure projects have been financed.

Figure 4 SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic positioning near Timișoara city • Rapid population growth (+39.4%) and high proportion of young population (+23%) • Uniform topography with average altitudes of 80-100 meters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly agricultural local economy (PNRR LEADER!) • Potential for slow rural uslu and agro-tourism growth • Development of inter-municipal projects network
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to European funds (CAP: PNRR LEADER) for rural development • Diversification of economic dynamics • Development of ec: -municipal projects and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability to extreme climatic phenomena (drought, hail) • Aging rural population across both genders (+23%) • Migration towards other adjacent municipalities