

**BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA**  
**FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

**DOCTORAL THESIS**

*Summary*

**THE DISTRICT OF CICEU - REGIONAL ANALYSIS**

**PhD Thesis Supervisor:**  
**Prof. Pompei COCEAN, PhD**

**Phd. candidate**  
**Alexandra-Camelia POTRA**

**Cluj-Napoca**

**2017**

## SUMMARY

	<b>Pag.</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>I. METHODOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL FUNDAMENTS REGARDING THE APPROACH OF A REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY STUDY OF „DISTRICTS”</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>1.1. Objectives and hypothesis of the research .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>1.2. Considerations on the concept of „district”. Its significance in the context     of Regional Geography.....</b>	<b>12</b>
1.2.1 Meanings and significances of the term of district .....	12
1.2.1.1. The district as a political-administrative entity .....	13
1.2.1.2. „The district” as mental space. Traditional mentalities and territorial identity .....	16
1.2.1.3. „Districts” with ethno-cultural valences .....	20
1.2.2. Attributes of the “district” type space .....	21
1.2.3. The analysis of the significances of “districts” compared to other regional taxons .....	23
1.2.3.1. „Countries” and „districts” .....	24
1.2.3.2. „District” and microregions.....	27
1.2.4. „District” as territorial system.....	31
<b>1.3. Methodological aspects .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>1.4. The district of Ciceu in literature . .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>II. THE HISTORICAL PREMISES OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2.1. Preliminary.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2.2. The impact of the historical factor in the genesis, evolution and the     becoming of the district of Ciceu .....</b>	<b>46</b>
2.2.1. The age of population of the district of Ciceu reflected by archaeological proofs.....	46

2.2.2. The district of Ciceu and Fortress. The particularities of genesis.....	51
2.2.3. Consolidation of the district of Ciceu during the transition from noble status to the royal one .....	53
2.2.4. The district of Ciceu under the domination of the Moldavian rules – the time of shaping the spiritual identity of the population.....	55
2.2.5. Ciceului Fortress – make of historical identity of the district of Ciceu.....	61
<b>2.3. Facets of the historical individualization of the district of Ciceu.....</b>	<b>71</b>
2.3.1. The census of 1553 – premises of the historical individualization of the district of Ciceu.....	71
2.3.2. The implications of political and administrative decisions in determining the current spatial extension of the district of Ciceu.....	73
	83
<b>2.4. Conclusions.....</b>	
<b>III. INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU BY IDENTITY LANDMARKS .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>3.1. Preliminary.....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>3.2. Delimitation of the district of Ciceu through the mental criteria .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>3.3. Ciceuan mental features – premises of the consolidation of the territorial identity.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>3.4. Identity of the Ciceuan community reflected by the popular culture .....</b>	<b>102</b>
3.4.1. Costume and traditions as identity elements of the Ciceun community .....	103
3.4.2. The identity of the Ciceuan population reflected by traditional economic activities.....	109
3.4.2.1. Traditional occupations.....	109
3.4.2.1.1. Milling role in creating identity elements. Historical reenactment of the Ciceuan milling landscape.....	112
3.4.2.2. Traditional crafts. Millstones processing – defining craft of the Ciceuan population.....	118
3.4.3. Traditional house and household – identity element of the district of Ciceu.	122
<b>3.5. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>125</b>

<b>IV. INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE NATURAL SETTING AND ITS POTENTIAL TO SHAPE THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>4.1. Preliminary</b> .....	<b>129</b>
<b>4.2. Morphologic component of the district of Ciceu</b> .....	<b>130</b>
4.2.1. Paleogeographical evolution and geology structure of the district of Ciceu.	130
4.2.2. Geographic position.....	132
4.2.3. Role of the relief as component of the district of Ciceu .....	133
4.2.4. Morphologic units and subunits of the microregion’s relief.....	134
4.2.5. Morphometry of the relief of the district of Ciceu .....	141
4.2.5.1. The altitude of the relief.....	141
4.2.5.2. The fragmentation depth .....	143
4.2.5.3. Exhibition of mountain tops .....	145
4.2.5.4. The slope of mountain tops .....	146
4.2.6. Elements of favorability and restrictiveness imposed by the specific relief of the district of Ciceu .....	148
4.2.6.1. Role of the relief in the layout of the settlements system.....	148
4.2.6.2. Influence of the relief on the economic functionality of the district of Ciceu .....	151
<b>4.3. Climatic component of the district of Ciceu</b> .....	<b>154</b>
4.3.1. Particularities of climatic elements.....	154
4.3.1.1. Temperature.....	154
4.3.1.2. Rainfall.....	155
4.3.2. Topoclimates manifested in the district of Ciceu .....	156
<b>4.4. Hydric component and the district of Ciceu</b> .....	<b>157</b>
4.4.1. Surface water basins and their characteristics .....	157
4.4.2. Groundwater and their quality .....	160
4.4.3. Role of hydric resources in the evolution of the district of Ciceu .....	161
4.4.4. Sources of drinking water – current situation and capitalization perspectives of water resources (drinking).....	163

<b>4.5. Biopedological component of The district of Ciceu .....</b>	<b>164</b>
4.5.1.Plant and faunal component –territorial specificities and implications on the evolution of the district of Ciceu.....	164
4.5.2. Features of the pedologic coating.....	166
<b>4.6. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>V. SPECIFICITIES OF THE GEODEMOGRAPHIC AND HABITAT COMPONENT .....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>5.1. Preliminary.....</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>5.2. Geodemographic evolution.....</b>	<b>171</b>
5.2.1. Geodemographic potential.....	172
5.2.2. Natural movement of the population in the district of Ciceu .....	177
5.2.3. Migratory movement of the population of the district of Ciceu .....	179
<b>5.3. Geodemographic structures.....</b>	<b>183</b>
5.3.1. Demographic dependence and structure of the population on group age and gender .....	183
5.3.2.Ethnic structure and the restrictions imposed by its evolution in the district of Ciceu.....	187
5.3.3. Religious structure of population .....	191
5.3.4. Educational structure. Involution of the school population – effect of the demographic dynamics .....	192
<b>5.4. Specificity of habitats.....</b>	<b>194</b>
5.4.1.The district of Ciceu – rural space. Interdependence relations in the Ciceuan system of settlements .....	194
5.4.2. Written testimony.....	195
5.4.3.Typologic particularities of the settlements in the district of Ciceu .....	196
5.4.3.1. Spatial distribution, population size and functions of Ciceuan settlements.....	197
5.4.3.2. The structure, formation and development of settlements fireplaces.....	198
5.4.3.3. Cluster analysis of the settlements, depending on their typologic particularities.....	202
5.4.5. Endowment degree of housing.....	204

<b>5.5. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>VI. FUNCTIONALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU REFLECTED BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE .....</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>6.1. Preliminary.....</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>6.2. Reflecting the economic functionality of the district of Ciceu through the economic structure of the population .....</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>6.3. Relationship of territorial specificity – focus on the economic level at the level of administrative-territorial unit .....</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>6.4. Activities of the primary sector.....</b>	<b>219</b>
6.4.1. Regionalization of primary sector activities in the district of Ciceu.....	219
6.4.2. Forest economy of the district of Ciceu .....	221
6.4.3. Agricultural functionality.....	223
6.4.3.1. The evolution of agricultural activities and their importance in shaping the economic functionality of the district of Ciceu.....	223
6.4.3.2. Capitalization of farmland in the district of Ciceu .....	226
6.4.3.3. Ciceuan agriculture at the line between subsistence and semi-subsistence. Accessing the PNDR funding – a solution to revive the agricultural activities in the district of Ciceu .....	228
6.4.3.4. Capitalization of arable land in the district of Ciceu.....	231
6.4.3.5. Pomiculture in the district of Ciceu, Case study: POMBIS fruit-growing farm - model of intensive farming in Ciceu-Mihăiești .....	234
6.4.3.6. Animal husbandry - form of recovery of pastures and hayfields in the district of Ciceu.....	237
6.4.3.7. Elements of favorability and tightness in agricultural activities .....	239
6.4.3.7.1. Natural component supportive relationship – agricultural component.....	240
6.4.3.7.2. Type and size of farms – unfavorable preconditions for increasing agricultural productivity .....	241
6.4.3.7.3. Recommendations on development of agricultural activities in the district of Ciceu.....	243
<b>6.5. Activities of the secondary sector.....</b>	<b>246</b>
6.5.1. Current forms of industrial exploitation.....	246

6.5.1.1. Specificities of the extractive industrial activities.....	247
6.5.1.2. The economy of the district of Ciceu reflected by the processing Industry.....	250
<b>6.6. Activities of the tertiary sector.....</b>	<b>253</b>
6.6.1. Trade and services.....	253
6.6.2. Touristic functionality.....	254
6.6.2.1. Natural resources and their role in the shaping of the touristic functioning of the district of Ciceu .....	255
6.6.2.2.The role of the visibility areas in the capitalization of the district of Ciceu landscape .....	257
6.6.2.3. The role of human resources in shaping the touristic potential of the district of Ciceu .....	260
6.6.2.3.1. The capitalization of the traditional village as a touristic resource	261
6.6.2.3.2.Immovable cultural patrimony of thr district of Ciceu and its al touristic capitalization.....	265
6.6.2.3.2.1. Classification of the goods in the immovable cultural patrimony .....	266
6.6.2.3.2.2. Protection and conservation of historical monuments .....	267
6.6.2.3.2.3 Touristic capitalization of historical monuments in the district of Ciceu.....	274
<b>6.7. Access infrastructure of Ciceului District .....</b>	<b>277</b>
6.6.1.Transport infrastructure and the accessibility degree of the district .....	277
6.6.2.Viability of the access infrastructure. The problematic aspects of the . transport network and the intervention measures implying their removal.....	279
<b>6.8. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>VII. REGIONAL SYNTHESIS COORDINATES OF CICEULUI DISTRICT .</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>7.1. Validation of hypothesis 1.....</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>7.2. Validation of hypothesis 2.....</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>306</b>





**KEY WORDS:** Ciceului District, functional region, ciceuan mintal space, gravity axis, Supra-communal polarizing center, Ciceului Fortress

## **I. METHODOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL FUNDAMENTS REGARDING THE APPROACH OF A REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY STUDY OF „DISTRICTS”**

### **1.1. Objectives and hypothesis of the research**

The line on which falls the following study is the one conferred by the analysis of the micro-regional units, called „districts”, seen and project territories and borrowing the attributes of mental spaces, the already scientifically testes features for the territorial units of „country”. The initiative was launched in the national literature by P. Cocean, the district of Ciceu being one of the first districts registered in this regard.

Two general hypotheses were tested during this study, naming the overlapping of the district of Ciceu over a functional micro-region and its association with a distinct mental space. Both assumptions were stalled on the 4 objectives clearly stated at the beginning of the work that demonstrate the functionality of the district, one hypothesis to be proven on the one hand, by giving some applied facets, and on the other hand, by deepening theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the researcher.

### **1.2. Considerations on the concept of „district”. Its significance in the context of Regional Geography**

The term of „district” is not a recent one, but the conotation given yo it have varied along the years, depending on the existing social-political context. The oldest acception is mentioned in the medieval documents, being directly associated to an old administrative-territorial formation in the Moldavian province. The term was semantically enriched at the beginning of the 20th century, when the „districts” become forms legislated by the royalty, for two years, the district of Ciceu being an integrating part of Somesului District.

Deepening the path of regional geography to confer certain territorial entities teh attributes of a mental space, a subject specific to social sciences, for this study was not omitted the consultation of those opinions which defined the geographical mental space (Kaplan S., Yi Fu Tuan, Fremont A., Mitu S., Cocean P.). A defining element for reporting inhabitants to the native territory comes from the perspective of traditionalism, as opposed to modernism, according to which the values of authenticity that the inhabitants would appropriate were family, land or the relationship with the deity, values much more sophisticated and globalized in the contemporary period. To these are added a number of ethnographic identity marks associated to myths and beliefs.

Noticing the affiliation level of the inhabitants to these territories, P. Cocean identified 3 possible aspects of Romanian mental spaces overlapping these district, The district of Ciceu being part, along with Bargaie, Tarnave, Campulung or Neamt Districts, of the category of consolidated district sever since the Medieval period and strongly impregnated in the mental of today’s communities only through a defining element (the fortress).

Another landmark for defining the word “district” is represented by the ethnographic reality, given by the vernacular heritage, habits, customs, legends, clothing. The clotting of the district of Ciceu as an ethnographic area occurred in the context of strong oppression of the native population to pressure from outside, fact certified by historical documents.

After consulting the literature, emerge some of the defining attributes of a territorial entity of "district" as well as the originality of the territorial-administrative structure, unique historical resilience, physiognomy, demographic peculiarities of the local communities involved and the relationship of gravity established within the micro-region and outside it.

For a better emphasis of the notion of “district”, we recurred to benchmarking “districts” and “countries”, from the perspective of genesis, the political-administrative function held, the geographical position but also the polarization exercised. Beyond the similarities resulted, “districts” are individualized through the openness of the mental space to its dissipation in the mental of the population, with a restriction of the space to the initially shaped one, through a polarization exercised by an inner rural center and a more significantly gravity exercised by an urban pole outside the region and the possibility of overlapping a micro-region.

Following an international trend, it was found that also at the national level there are several features which may equate districts and micro-regions. In this regard, we remind features such as relatively modest spatial extensions, voluntary association of certain UATs, the relations existing between the components thereof, the potential of the resources found, the high degree of connectivity to the transportation networks, polarization exercised by a communal center. Currently, a certain viability in terms of providing a social-economical cohesion is provided by GALs, for the the current area GAL Haiducilor District. Moreover, under the sign of social cohesion, European policy goal, are found the initiatives of overlapping certain territories such as “districts”, “countries” over NUTS 4. Currently, this taxon is not legislated in Romania.

Nonetheless, it was proven that the district of Ciceu may have the attributes of a territorial system, by collective identity, compatibility between its components, historical and cultural uniqueness, local polarization center.

### **1.3. Methodological aspects**

As in the case of the “country” types studies, were used a series of methods specific to regional geography, customized for this study depending on the defining elements of the district of Ciceu. Integrated in the steps for the accumulation of information and creation of databases, the analytical and deliberative one, the applied research methods comply with the aimed objectives. We remind bibliographical documentation, analysis, sociological investigation, observation, regional method, synthesis and cartographic method.

### **1.4. The district of Ciceu in literature**

There are many and diverse articles on the district of Ciceu, but from the historical, lyric, geographical, ethnographic or monographic articles were also highlighted in this paper those works which serve as testimony or arguments for supporting this area as a

complex territorial unit. Moreover, the statistical data and the older and newer cartographic materials provide concreteness to any new semantic conferred to the term of “district”.

## **II. THE HISTORICAL PREMISES OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU**

### **2.1. Preliminary**

Ever since the first pages of chapter 2, are clearly stated the objectives of using the historical landmarks as specificity elements in the evolution of this territory. On the one side, we remind the identification of the archaeological testimonies in the evolution of the territory and the historical premises which individualized the district of Ciceu, on the other side the individualization of the disfunctions generated and the viable intervention measures.

### **2.2. The impact of the historical factor in the genesis, evolution and the becoming of The district of Ciceu**

Fireplace of the multicentury dwelling, the district of Ciceu was inhabited since the Upper Paleolithic, fact proven by the archaeological evidence discovered. During the following centuries, the multitude of objects discovered, also provided by the *National Archaeological Repository*, confirms the continuity of dwelling. An important period for the individualization of the territory was represented by the Daco-Roman period, by the identification of traces of Dacic sites on Ciceul Spanzului Hill and the Roman fort at Ilisua.

The confirmation of the district of Ciceu as territorial entity is closely related to the genesis of the omonymous fortress. In the Middle Age, a special role in the individualization of the fortress was played by the colonizations of certain tribes (Pechenegs and Hungarians), invasions of the Tatars but also the attempts of the Hungarian royalty to extend their limits in Somesului Corridor. The privileged position of the fortress (Ciceului Summit) was consolidated by the strong defensive role played by it during the entire Medieval Period.

The consolidation of the district of Ciceu is closely related to the history of the Hungarian and Moldavian rulers, the most important part being played by Stefan cel Mare and Petru Rares. Once with the first Romanian ruler of this territory, the district of Ciceu is individualized as a strong Romanian spiritually areal (the Vad foundation), statute to be associated with a permanent fight for keeping the Romanian unity. From the administrative point of view, this areal functioned according to the laws in Moldavia.

Ciceului Fortress, currently included on the List of Historical monuments, is in an advanced and continuous degradation status. Moreover, the access to the ruins of the fortress is performed on two routes, hardly accessible and only by foot. The privileged position from which the fortress benefited (refugee in case of invasions, the proximity to certain extraction centers) also represented the reasons of its often conquests. Along with the destruction of the fortress was diminished the feature of territorial identity of the population, its restoration action being, currently, questionable. In the perception of the interrogated inhabitants, the fortress represents a landmark of the identity of this

district. In terms of response measures, we propose the capitalization of the visibility area of the fortress (by setting a lookout point), the establishment of a protection area in its neighboring perimeter, the signalization of the fortress, including by the use of a QR code, the increase of the accessibility to this touristic point, but also its inclusion into integrated touristic circuits.

### **2.3. Facets of the historical individualization of the district of Ciceu**

Based on the consultation of certain assessments and of other historical documents, the area of the district of Ciceu has oscilated, its maximum extension being recorded in 1553, when it included 63 villages. From the administrative point of view, the first forms of administrative organization of the territory overlapped Dacia Porolissensis, witnessed by the Ilisua and Caseiu camps. The Middle Age brings along new administrative forms, the place of *territorium* being taken by the village community, The district of Ciceu being included in a so-called county of the fortress (Solnocul Interior). The following historical periods are being defined by their own administrative forms in which the areal shall be included. One must keep in mind the existence of the district as a macro-territorial form of administration during the interwar period (the current the district of Ciceu was included in Somesului District). Currently, the administrative clippings proposed by the administratie reorganization in 1968 divide the district of Ciceu on the territory of 3 counties (Cluj, Sălaj, Bistrița-Năsăud). Currently, the district of Ciceu is made of 6 communes and 20 villages.

The current administrative reorganizations (overlapping of the areal submitted to analysis on 3 different counties), in the context where the consolidation nucleus corresponding to the district of Ciceu belongs only to Bistrita-Nasaud county, reconfirms the belonging of the inhabitants of Bistrita Nasaud county to this district, unlike the inhabitants of the areal from other counties.

### **2.4. Conclusions**

Beyond the existence of the district of Ciceu as an identity landmark for the investigated areal and the presence of certain national historical monuments, there are a series of dysfunctionalities deriving from the poor promotion of the existing historical patrimony, either we talk about accessibility, touristic marking and signaling or real restoration works. Moreover, there is a poor awareness of the inhabitants or public authorities on the special value held by this historical legacy and a deficitary coagulation of certain real intervention actions between various stakeholders responsible with the preservation of cultural patrimony. The opportunities are there, thus reminding the possible touristic capitalization of the fortress and the neighboring historical monuments, by real restoration works, continued with regional marketing strategies.

## **III. INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU BY IDENTITY LANDMARKS**

### **3.1. Preliminary**

The district of Ciceu is also individualized through identity landmarks, by giving it the features of mental space. The objectives proposed in this chapter was concentrated on the identification of the current extension of the district of Ciceu, of the elements of ethnographic and cultural specificity defining the communities in the vicinity of Ciceu

fortress but also the dysfunctions and the intervention measures proposed for the amplification of the territorial social cohesion.

### **3.2. Delimitation of the district of Ciceu through the mental criteria**

The mental criteria, frequently used in the “country” – type studies, which gave a special importance to the mental space, was used in the analysis of the current district. Through the social investigation conducted (310 questionnaires applied, a series of discussions with the locals) was monitored the perception of the inhabitants to the natal territorial reality. In absolute or majority proportions (90%), the communes Ciceu-Giurgești, Ciceu-Mihăiești, Negrilești, Petru Rareș, Uriu and Chiuiești, communes fully included in the county Bistrița-Năsăud, belong to The district of Ciceu.

The self-identification with the Ciceuan space is directly proportional with the distance to Ciceului Fortress, towards the outskirts of the territory, in Somesan Corridor, the attachments is one barely articulated.

### **3.3. Ciceuan mental features – premises of the consolidation of the territorial identity**

From the perspective of the 310 respondents, it shows that the defining identity elements, at the individual’s level, their attachment to history, the human solidarity, reporting to family and the close relations between its members, the price, the diligence, the faith. Alterity is also important, the main distinctive elements between ciceuans and the inhabitants of the neighboring areals being the speech and conservatism. The Ciceuan space represents, by excellence, a habitational mental space.

### **3.4. Identity of the Ciceuan community reflected by the popular culture**

The costumes, the customs, the crafts and the traditional activities, the vernacular patrimony represent ethnographic elements reflecting the identity of local communities of the district of Ciceu, to the identification of a distinctive ethnographic subarea. The ethnographic reflections were based on the *Romanian ethnographic Atlas*, ethnographic monographies but also data collected on field. The costume, once a reason of pride, continues to be, on the investigated area, less worn. Among the localities where there are slight tendencies of refreshment of the costume we remind the central-Northern part of the district (Dumbrăveni, Ciceu-Corabia, Lelești, Breaza, Negrilești, Strâmbu, Măgoaja).

The customs, another identity landmark, betray an alienation of the inhabitants, so far as to denying them, keeping only those related to the major events of the year (mourning, garnishment of the gates, Plugusorul, Sorcova), many of those that once existed being restrictively and occasionally practiced or completely missing, The preservation degree of the customs is higher in the North of the district, in the proximity of certain well-defined ethnographic areas (Lapusului Country, Chioarului Country). Moreover, modern influences are felt, more often of the kitsch type, and those of the cohabiting ethnic groups (Hungarian), especially in rural Somes Couloir.

Beyond the traditional agricultural activities specific to the entire Romanian rural area (traditional agriculture, grazing, pomiculture, milling, weaving, wood processing), it is being noticed, in the district of Ciceu, the processing of millstone, an activity consistent with local resources. The casestudy dedicated to milling has also shown the

development of related activities, such as the textile industry. On the other side, besides the clearly sized economic function during the Habsburg and socialist period, the mills had a strong socializing role, identity, representing a reason for youth meetings.

At the level of the household, of the elements inside it or its surroundings, it is noticed a small number of traditional households, but with an increasing percentage of the houses keeping less of the specificity of the place, changes occurred in the context of aging of the rural localities and justified by the increase of comfort and the emergence of modern elements in the mature and young population.

### **3.5. Conclusions**

The diversity and the multitude of the Ciceuan identity landmarks, the continuity of certain traditional activities and of craftsmen are minimized as advantages because of the advanced status of degradation of the traditional households and installations, of the reduced entrepreneurial initiatives for the capitalization of the vernacular legacy but also a low interest regarding their capitalization by the inhabitants and authorities. Any initiative to revigorate the material and spiritual inheritance of the inhabitants of The district of Ciceu, including by adapting certain models of national or international mest practices, should be encouraged both by decision-making factors in charge, as well as appropriate start-up ideas by the enterprising representatives of the local community.

## **IV. INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE NATURAL SETTING AND ITS POTENTIAL TO SHAPE THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU**

### **4.1. Preliminary**

By recourse to some data provided by specialized institutions, but also by consulting cartographic material or documentary on field, the natural component of the district of Ciceu highlighted both as a component of supporting human activities and as an interactive component through the relationships between physical and geographical elements and other components derived (habitats, infrastructure, economics etc.). Among the objectives set and achieved in this respect, we mention analyzing the main physical and geographical components and the specificities that they require in the territory, with favorability and restrictiveness, with dysfunctions which can be found at correlations, suppressed in theory by proposing intervention measures.

### **4.2. Morphologic component of the district of Ciceu**

One physical-geographical aspect affecting the regions is the geological structure, which generated a typology of volcanic and sedimentary rocks whose use can be found in the building materials industry, but which also imprints some restrictiveness in terms of the vulnerability of the field to certain geo-morphological risk phenomena.

Through spatial analysis and mapping of certain geo-morphological parameters and phenomena were individualized a series of correlations between relief and the degree of humanization of the territory, the spatial distribution of habitats or communication arteries and the type of economics practiced.

The relief of the district of Ciceu is defined by combining high hilld (Dealurile Ciceului, Culmea Breaza) and low ones (Dealurile Ciceului, Dealurile Suplaiului, Dealurile

Sălătrucului) with depression basin (Lelești, Ilișua, Chiuiești), terraces and meadows of Somesul Mare Corridor. In terms of housing, the highest favorability belonged to depression basins (the settlements Chiuiești, Negriștea, Ciceu-Giurgești), followed by floodplains and terraces (the localities Uriu, Petru Rareș, Ciceu-Mihăiești). A slightly restrictive feature for the location of habitats is given by the presence of high hills (see Breaza Peak), but easily passed due to the location of the settlements along rivers or on the bottom of the valleys.

The configuration and structure of the relief in the district of Ciceu, a space exclusively rural, economically translates through agro-pastoral economy, distributed predominantly in floodplains and terraces of Somesul Mare Corridor and the depression basins.

#### **4.3. Climatic component of the district of Ciceu**

By analyzing representative climatic parameters (temperature, precipitation) were identified the specific topo-climates also retrieved in the analyzed territory. Thus, are predominant the valley and plateau topo-climates.

#### **4.4. Hydric component of the district of Ciceu**

Although there are favorable conditions for the use of water resources (density of stream, flow, water quality) in the water supply network of settlements, they are less valued, to nonexistent. In addition, more than half of the analyzed settlements have no centralized drinking water, the supply being made from wells.

#### **4.5. Biopedological component of the district of Ciceu**

The vegetation, by the forests held, had and has a major role in the evolution of certain aspects of the district of Ciceu, from shelter to source of raw material for constructions and heating the houses, to a generous hunting source, support for agriculture and landscape function. This is not available in the case of fauna, with a predominant role in the structure of the hunting source. The soil, on the other hand, influence the forest economy and the agriculture. The largest spreading is held by Protisols and Luvisols, with modest fertility, giving a much more extended spatial distribution to natural meadows.

#### **4.6. Conclusions**

Either we talk about the potential of the physical-geographical setting, at the level of each component, either we refer to the relations between them, the district of Ciceu is individualized as a humanized areal, even within the relief most likely for living in (Breaza Peak), rural by excellence, with an agro-pastoral specialization conditioned by the use of the lands and with a high accessibility due to the configuration of the ways of communication.

Also, there are restrictive phenomena, which, lacking certain intervention measured for their improvement and/or removal, might generate real threats (phenomena with geomorphological risks, deforestation, destruction of natural ecosystems). The fitting of natural elements (lookout points, leisure areas) associated with activities to exploit the existing natural resources, represent custom opportunities of the analyzed territory.

## **V. SPECIFICITIES OF THE GEODEMOGRAPHIC AND HABITAT COMPONENT**

### **5.1. Preliminary**

Seen dynamically and evolutively, in time and space, human resources represent another essential component in the analysis of a region. Among the objectives aimed and reached in this chapter, we mention the evolution of the population and the evolutive trends at the regional level, the analysis of the geo-demographic structures and the specificities generate by it, including from the perspective of the recorded dysfunctions or risks, particularities of rural habitats, with typologies depending on the endowment degree and type of functions and their possible subsequent development coordinates.

### **5.2. Geodemographic evolution**

The numerical evolution of the population under the sign of the natural, socio-historical and political factors, with a highly visible effect on the population dynamics is held by the measures and policies implemented after 1990 (individual property, democratization of the lifestyle, privatization of the economy, the free movement of individuals in the Schengen space).

The district of Ciceu is characterized by a negative natural population balance sheet for the period under review (1990-2015), with visible accelerate prospects of an aging population and increased mortality. On the other hand, the rural exodus of the socialist period generated by the gravity exerted by the poles of attraction outside the region (Cluj-Napoca, Dej, Bistrita), amplified during the transition from temporary and definitive external emigration of the adult population prints negative balance of migration. Human resource is lost through the attraction of urban centers with jobs more exciting, multiplied by the emigration of education, many young people with secondary and higher education preferring to choose a different home, conditioned directly by the presence of a job related to their qualifications. Low levels of fertility and marriage rates fell significantly, foreshadowing a visible setback of the general demographic balance.

### **5.3. Geodemographic structures**

At the level of the age structure of the Ciceuan population, it is recorded a relative balance between the male and female population, but with a more emphasized feminization in the age group of 64 plus. The age pyramids of the settlements under analysis show a demographic aging process, the demographic dependence report with values over 78% at the district level emphasize even more the following regressive projection of human resources.

A lot more colorful at the level of former centuries, the ethnical structure of the population in Ciceului region has currently a significant percentage of Romanian, followed by Hungarians and Roma. The social-historical context and the political decisions made, the existing wars determined the loss of a significant contingent of Germans and Hebrew. Still at the ethnic level, a particular situation derives from the presence of Roma, who, missing social coagulation policies, determine stringent social-



economic changes (Poienile Reteagului, Valea Leleștilor). The religious structure is directly proportional to the ethnic categories in the regions, predominantly Orthodox.

In terms of education, the district of Ciceu values are lower, even than the county or national average, only 5.9% of the Ciceuan population completed their post-secondary or higher education.

#### **5.4. Specificity of habitats**

The image of the Ciceuan traditional village has known esthetic and functional changes in the post-socialist period, due to external factors manifested regionally and beyond. At the settlement level, all the 21 settlements in the area are polarized by Reteag, common residence with a polarizing role, integrated themselves in the proximity of large urban centers. Within the region, the relationships established between the settlements are of subordination and collaboration.

The documentary attestation of the localities demonstrates, once again, the age and continuous presence in Ciceului region. Demographically, most Ciceuan villages fall into the category of small and medium sized villages (101-1500 inhabitants) with a predominantly agricultural specialization and specific functionality specific to the industrial or tertiary sector, only partially.

Based on consultations with several cartographic sources, at the regional level was conducted an evolution of the cores of the settlements. The territorial expansion of their limits highlighted several diachronic features. According to the classical model of polarization of habitats, central-peripheral, first surveying recorded 17 core settlements, overlapping the central village, cartographic sources specific to the following centuries highlighting the evolution of the central area and a restriction of the cores of the settlements. The contemporary period brings along the necessary modifications made by the owners of households associated with increased comfort and "urbanization" of the village. With few exceptions, most settlements have developed on the North-South direction, along axes (road, hydrographic). Recently, there is a tendency of expanding the fireplaces, but by scattering them.

The cluster analysis based on the size of the population, functions of these settlements, a spatial distribution of the fireplaces determined a typology of the development of potential settlements. Large and average localities with multiple functions and color developed in Somesul Mare Corridor or in depression basins, meet the highest evolutionary perspective, followed by those with a secondary functionality, non-agricultural, placed in the area of high hills. Unfortunately, there are hamlets villages (Dosu Bricii, Valea lui Opriș, Valea Cășeiului), almost depopulated, hardly accessible and dependent on the common residence villages, whose evolutionary perspective is missing.

The endowment degree of settlements highlights other issues at regional level: small areas of settlements are connected to the drinking water supply in centralized system, sewage system is even more deficient, 22 schools serving the district of Ciceu, but with significant gaps at the level of material and technical facilities, health care facilities have minimal amenities and cultural type units, such as museum, are scarcely represented. The rate of accessing European funding in recent years has offset many of

the shortcomings facilities of the localities, being limited to connections to drinking water and sewerage (still poor!) and upgrading of cultural centers.

### **5.5. Conclusions**

Beyond the quality of human resources at regional level, we have identified a number of dysfunctions, translated by alarming demographic phenomena (aging of the population, high demographic dependence, depopulation of villages), few prospects of development of settlements and the emergence of areas of centrifugally polarized . In addition to encouraging upgrading / expansion works of urban utilities, concrete proposals for action may come by accessing funding, addressing the emergence of jobs in the economic activity associated to the resource area. A particular situation is specific to hamlet villages, whose status of "ghost village" can be transformed into a holiday village type, the minimum condition for achieving this goal is the establishment of public-private partnerships.

## **VI. FUNCTIONALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU REFLECTED BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **6.1. Preliminary**

The economic component, which gives substrate to the functionality of micro-regions, was analyzed in terms of all sectors manifested in the territory, highlighting the following objectives: analysis of existing resources, determining areas of visibility, analysis of the varied types of economic use, determining the accessibility and connectivity of the habitat, identifying the dysfunctions and proposing intervention actions.

### **6.2. Reflecting the economic functionality of the district of Ciceu through the economic structure of the population**

The analysis of the occupational structure at the administrative-territorial unit showed a predomination of the Ciceuan population in the primary sector, a percentage increased with the closing of neighboring industrial units (Dej Pulp and Paper Factory) and the related layoffs. In the industrial sector, the most significant activities derive from the light industry (food, textile, forestry), mining is limited to extraction of sand and gravel from the existing pits in Somesul Mare Corridor. A most significant share of the tertiary sector in the preferences of employment of residents is held by commercial units or buildings, transport and storage.

### **6.3. Relationship of territorial specificity – focus on the economic level at the level of administrative-territorial unit**

Concentration of economic activities at intra-regional level was conditioned by the presence or absence of internal or external factors, such as the distribution of natural and human resources, territorial accessibility, suitability of the relief, the amount and quality of labor, the attractiveness of an investment perspective. With a high concentration of the indicators supporting the economic development are noticed the communes Petru Rareș, Uriu and Ciceu-Mihăiești, economically multifunctional communes and with a series of physical-geographical advantages economically capitalized. Other 3 communes are among the settlements with an average to low concentration (Negriștești, Chiuiești) or even low (Ciceu-Giurgești) of these indicators, translated into an economic mono-functionality.

#### **6.4. Activities of the primary sector**

The capitalization mode of the lands showed a territorial regioning of the agricultural activities, focused on plant growing, animal husbandry and forestry. In the context of a forestry fund with a smaller area, forestry is also limited, wood exploitation and capitalization activities being specific in Chiuiești and Negrilești.

Practiced since the dawn of humanization of the area analyzed, agriculture has experienced a number of evolutionary forms, the largest in space and time being extensive sedentary agriculture, which still remains conspicuous in the territory, despite the existence of scattered farms intensifying the existing farming. The biggest expansion in area is held by natural grasslands, farmland and into a low percentage, permanent crops and kitchen gardens.

Also at the regional level, is remarkable the transition from subsistence farming to the semi-subsistence one, whose features are provided by consolidation of small farms, of family type, with the mixed profile ones. Grants from the Common Agricultural Policy were given for the development and modernization of farms and encouraging of young farmers.

The arable land in the district of Ciceu is exploited by certain vegetable crops, among which corn, wheat, fodder plants, potatoes and vegetables. Not being one of the main activities of the inhabitants in the district of Ciceu, but with the tradition in the past, pomiculture is today represented in the Ciceu-Mihăiești and Petru Rares communes. The Pombis fruit growing farm is also relevant as a model of best practices.

The residents of the analyzed micro-region prefer animal husbandry, their return being higher than the one of vegetable crops, most of the livestock belonging to individual households. Pastures and hayfields are economically exploited by sheep and cattle husbandry.

Agricultural functionality is conditioned by the relief, soil conditions, climate, water resources, acting either positively or restrictive. On the other hand, the high number of individual farms and their small size affect the long term viability of farming by limiting productivity and lack of continuous surfaces occupied by the same type of culture. Among the proposed solutions are encouraging agricultural associative forms and accessing financing programs.

#### **6.5. Activities of the secondary sector**

In the absence of industrial resources, the secondary sector is highly individualized. In the district of Ciceu, employment in this sector is engaged in industrial spaces of neighboring urban centers. As forms of industrial exploitation is remarkable the processing of the millstones (occupation old in the complex), extraction and exploitation of sedimentary rocks within the 5 functional pits situated along Somesul Mare, wood processing, manufacture of bakery and milling and natural juices. The small size of the activities undertaken, fewer jobs and abandoning industrial practices are the main issues identified at the regional level and whose solution binds the development of this sector.

## **6.6. Activities of the tertiary sector**

In terms of trade, serving the population with food and non-food products is made through the shops from the village, and in case of non-food products from the urban shopping centers. For the rest of category of services (educational, medical, administrative, cultural), the supply is made through the localities located on the Somesul Mare Corridor, a real gravity axis or even in the cities found in the vicinity.

Although with a significant potential of natural and human resources, tourism is the field of activity with the highest losses, lacking an optimum capitalization. The correlations made between natural resources and tourism highlight the significant potential thereof (fragmented and volcanic relief, steep rocks, shelter topoclimat, the presence of Somesul Mare river, hunting, fishing) and the low capacity of natural components to run activities for tourism (short-term, recreational tourism). Through GIS analysis were calculated the areas of vision, several lookout points deserving their planning for tourism.

The human resources, through the vernacular and cultural heritage (historical monuments), contribute to the image of the touristic potential of the territory. The plenitude of traditional households identified in the territory (more than 200) may be capitalized as touristic traditional villages, a process requiring, in the first place, an awareness of the inhabitants and the public authority of the special value held by it. The Immovable cultural heritage, by representativeness, age, rarity and preservation condition of the historical monuments and sites, has an important role in the individualization of cultural tourism. One must take into account the fact that the monuments found on the field are in a worsening preservation condition, which counterbalances their possibility of achieving a touristic function. As proposed intervention measures, the touristic signaling of the monuments, installing video surveillance systems to eliminate vandalism, actions to increase the awareness of local communities regarding the touristic capitalization of cultural heritage, creating themed tourist routes.

## **6.7. Access infrastructure of the district of Ciceu**

The transport infrastructure of the district of Ciceu is connected to the regional gravity axis of Somesul Mare, the region being crossed by the roads E58 and E576, DN17 and several other communal roads. Besides the road coverage of the region, we also notice the intense use thereof by public transport companies, especially commuting. The viability of the road is good, at the regional level, their quality was and continues to be provided by modernization projects with national and European funding. From the railway point of view, the district of Ciceu is crossed only by the localities in Somesul Mare corridor, and from the aerial point of view, the nearest airport serving the area is Cluj-Napoca Municipality.

## **6.8. Conclusions**

Despite the extremely favorable geographical position and a proper connectivity for the supply and marketing of local products, the district of Ciceu is mainly based on the agricultural activities, lacking a viable capitalization strategy of the resources but also the orientation towards commercial activities and low-profit services and the conservationist style of conducting most of the activities individually. The proposals

made imply the extension of the farms areas, encouraging the entrepreneurial initiatives by accessing grants, diversification of economical activities.

## **VII. REGIONAL SYNTHESIS COORDINATES OF THE DISTRICT OF CICEU**

### **7.1. Validation of hypothesis 1**

The first hypothesis, axed on the overlapping of the district of Ciceu as an authentic mintal space, seen through the enthical-cultural elements identified but also through the self-perception of the inhabitants, shows a reporting of local communities to the historical mintal space. The full self-identification with the current limits of the district is specific only to the localities in the near vicinity of Ciceului fortress, the most representative element for this type of region. The lack of social articulation towards the fortress, for the rest of localities belonging to the district, is seen on the background of deterioration of the administrative role of the fortress and its preservation degree. The open feature of the Ciceuan mintal space is also supported by the vicinity of the localities to the gravitational axis of Somesul Mare and the social-cultural gravity of the inhabitants to other 3 nearby spaces, type „country” (Lapusului Country, Nasaudului Country, Chioarului Country).

### **7.2. Validation of hypothesis 2**

The second hypothesis, focused on demonstrating the functionality of the province as micro-region, was shaped around a few variables, such as preservation and capitalization of the cultural heritage of the territory and strengthening of the historical identity; the human resource and its capacity of intervention in the territory; the potential of the natural and economic activities; the anthropogenic resources and economic diversification by capitalizing on their functionality; connectivity of the access infrastructure; gravity axis, centers of polarization and typological features of the analyzed micro-region.

From the regional point of view, the district of Ciceu functions as an outskirts of Cluj and Bistrita-Nasaud counties, with a polarization exercised by the upper regional centers within them. The lack of an urban locality in the territory, the poor articulation of Reteag village, the existence of centrifugal polarized areas amplifies the functional dependence of the land outside its area. The main development axis of the region is represented by the Southern axis, graphed on the valley of Somesul Mare, towards which converge the other 3 development axis (Valea Sălătrucului, Valea Mare, Valea Ilișua).

Following the results of the research, we may state that the district of Ciceu has the required elements which may confer it functionality, but given the poor territorial articulation thereof, the functional viability of the micro-region becomes questionable.