

COMMUNITY OF PREDEAL ≈ GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE ELEMENTS ≈

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Abstract: *The objective of this article is to perform a general description of the community of Predeal. The data submitted herein, together with aspects in connection with the social problems that the community of Predeal is confronted with will serve to outline a strategy of community development.*

Key words: *community, community development, census.*

1. Introduction:

As the majority of the Romanian communities of our days, the community of Predeal likewise presents acute necessities of development. The census of the population from Predeal, performed during the summer of the year 2006, as well as the opinion poll about the inhabitants' perceptions with respect to the social problems of the town, performed during the same period, unveiled many of the problems that the inhabitants of this area are confronted with and, implicitly, part of their solutions and the possible directions of development. An important aspect as regards the success in identifying and implementing a strategy of development is that the Townhall of Predeal has already been endeavouring to outline this strategy, and it may be a collaborator of great help in realizing and implementing this strategy.

2. Theoretical Aspects:

The Encyclopedia of Social Development (2007) defines community as „an enduring social formation, gathering a relatively small number of individuals, with a similar cultural background and social statuses, who inhabit a little

extended surface and among whom there are well defined and persistent relations of cooperation, there succeeding thereby the exercise of an efficient social control on the level of the respective group”.

Sandu (2005) states the fact that this one (community) „designates a human grouping characterized through an increased probability of their members' value unit. Operationally speaking, the community is acknowledged through at least one of the following three attributes: its members' cultural similarity; intense interaction among the members of the group; status similarity among the members of the group (occupation, education, age, localization etc.)”.

Encyclopedia Universalis specifies the fact that this word, community, raises issues that have not been solved yet. It identifies two types of non-operational definitions: general definitions, among whom there is C.M. Arensberg's definition, for whom „communities stand for structural units of organization and cultural and social transmission”. A second definition of this type, inspired by the works of G.A. Hillery, who in 1955 gathered 94 definitions of the community from the Anglo-Saxon literature, takes into

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account all types of possible communities: „a community is a collectivity whose members are connected through a strong feeling of participation”. In the category of the particular definitions, we find the definitions of rural communities.

International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences defines community as a „population living within the legally set limits of a town”. There is further specified that the term is very rarely used so as to describe a regular metropolitan area, a commercial area or an entity defined by other functions than the political ones. The issue of determining the borders of a community is unsolvable (excepting the arbitrary means) as it is acknowledged the fact that decisions taken *externally* may have a significant impact upon the allotment of the values and upon important private or public decisions *within* the community. The main preoccupation enhanced in the literature with respect to the community power consists in outlining and sharing these values and decisions.

Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft (Community and society)

Ferdinand Tönnies was the first to make explicit the nature and use of ideal types, or „normal types”, as he called them. Stimulated by Maine as well as by Marx and Hobbes, he developed two such types which gave their names to his book *Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft* (1887). Tönnies' theory and typology rest on his view of the nature of human volition, of which he distinguished two types—*Wesenwille* („natural will” or „essential will”) and *Kurwille* („rational will”). The former refers to volition that springs from an individual's temperament, character, and habits. With rational will, however, the distinction between means and ends becomes important, and volition is dominated by thinking.

Gemeinschaft cannot be accurately translated. It refers to the „community of

feeling” (a kind of associative unity of ideas and emotions) that results from likeness and from shared life-experience. Natural will predominates in *Gemeinschaft* relationships, which are best illustrated by the links between mother and child, husband and wife, and brothers and sisters.

The predominance of rational will characterizes *Gesellschaft*. In *Gesellschaft* relationships, Tönnies says, „everybody is by himself and isolated, and there exists a condition of tension against all others ... intrusions are regarded as hostile acts ... nobody wants to grant and produce anything for another individual ... all goods are conceived to be separate, as are their owners” (1887, p. 65). In such a society, rational will operates in terms of the logic of the market place. Relationships are contractual; values are monetary. Profit is the sole end of trade, and one man's gain is another's loss. As the merchant tries to free himself from all relationships that might conflict with commerce, he becomes, as Adam Smith pointed out, an individual who is not bound to any particular country; indeed, every man becomes, in some measure, a merchant.

„In the history of the great systems of culture”, Tönnies wrote, „a period of *Gesellschaft* follows a period of *Gemeinschaft*”. The latter period begins with social relations based on family life and on domestic economy; later, with the development of agriculture and rural village life, there is a shift to cooperative patterns based on locality. Then follows the growth of town life and the mental community of religious faith and artistry. The *Gesellschaft* period of history opens with the growth of city life based on trade and contractual relationships. Industrialization and the rational manipulation of capital and labor are accompanied by the growth of the state and of national life. Cosmopolitan life, toward which Tönnies thought society was moving, would be based on the ultimate

expressions of rational will—science, informed public opinion, and control by „the republic of scholars” (*International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*).

Mechanical and organic solidarity

In his book *The Division of Labor in Society* (1893), Émile Durkheim examined the relationship between two facts that had already been noted by Auguste Comte and Herbert Spencer - that the division of labor in society was a source of social solidarity and that primitive society was relatively homogeneous in character. Noting the impossibility of observing social solidarity directly, Durkheim took variation in types of law as a symbol, or reflection, of types of solidarity. Maine afforded him the basis for further analysis in the observation that law in ancient societies was characteristically penal or criminal law, while civil law predominates in modern society. Durkheim called the first type of law „repressive” and identified it with *mechanical solidarity*, or social unity based on likeness. He held that the moral sentiments common to all members of a society constitute a „collective conscience”; criminal acts are those that violate the common conscience and call forth passionate reactions of vengeance. Violent punishment of the offender can expiate the act because the punishment protects the collective conscience of the society from further violation.

In contrast to repressive law, which deals with criminal acts against society, civil law deals with relationships between special parties in society. The sanctions of civil law involve restitution rather than punishment, and such „restitutive” law presupposes cooperation derived from the division of labor. The associated type of social solidarity is based on the interdependence of specialized parts; using the biological analogy, Durkheim called it

organic solidarity. To the type of society it characterized he gave no specific name, although he referred to it as „occupationally organized”.

Finally, Durkheim used the legal indices of solidarity to demonstrate that as one basis of solidarity develops the other regresses. It is always organic solidarity that wins out over the mechanical, he contended. The evolution of society can therefore be seen in terms of the passage from mechanical solidarity to organic solidarity, with „mechanical” or „organic” referring to the dominant type of solidary relationship at each evolutionary stage. Durkheim saw a connection between this evolutionary process and such factors as increasing population size and density, the growth of cities, and improvements in communication. In the increasing competition resulting from rising population density and increasing social interaction, he found the cause of the increase in division of labor.

Parsons' „pattern variables”

Four pattern variables constitute the basic components of Talcott Parsons' system of analysis of social action (1951, pp. 58-67; 1960). The variables are „ranges which, in their simplest form, can be defined as polar alternatives”. In Parsonian analysis, the pattern variables figure as dichotomies: each expresses a „dilemma” of choice between two distinct alternatives that are faced by the „actor” in every social situation. The nature of the variables is suggested by the way each relates to the definition of behavioral expectations. *Affectivity* versus *affective neutrality* refers to whether immediate self-gratification or its deferment is expected. *Specificity* versus *diffuseness* is concerned with whether the scope of the relationship is seen as narrow, like that between a clerk and customer, or broad and inclusive, as between spouses. *Universalism* versus *particularism* has to do with whether action is governed in terms of

generalized standards or in terms of a reference scheme peculiar to the actors in the relationship. Finally, the *quality* versus *performance* dichotomy (also called *ascription* versus *achievement*) is concerned with whether the characterization of each actor by the other is based on who or what the person is or on what he can do - for example, on whether he has royal blood (ascription), or on whether he is a college graduate (achievement).

Classification of societies. Parsons used combinations of two of these dichotomies - universalism-particularism and ascription-achievement - to define four principal types of society. He pointed out that all societies organized around kinship fall under the particularistic-ascriptive pattern. The scheme, therefore, has evolutionary implications, as it distinguishes three social structural „types which tend to emerge when major types of cultural development in the literate cultures have occurred" (Parsons 1951, p. 182). The emergent type characterized by the universalistic-achievement pattern is exemplified by the most industrialized societies. Division of labor in such societies emphasizes the specificity and affective neutrality of occupational roles, which contrast with the diffuse and affective character of kin roles in primitive societies.

If one disregards the two other possible types in favor of the universalistic-achievement pattern and the particularistic-ascriptive pattern, there is obviously a continuum between these ideal-typical roles. In empirical terms, one extreme characterizes all primitive societies and even feudal ones, while heavily industrialized societies resemble the other pole. There is a clear tendency for the four pattern variables to covary between these extremes, although all actual societies show mixtures of the two sets of characteristics. It is only the relative

emphasis that differs (*International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*).

3. Description of the Community of Predeal

3.1. General Data

Geographical placement

Predeal, a town also known as a ski resort, is placed at the partition line between the basins of Prahova and Timiș, within the pass bearing the same name. It is the Romanian town situated at the highest altitude (1097 m). Predeal resort is at a distance of 142 km from Bucharest, on DN1, at 25 km from Sinaia and at 25 km from Brașov.

Surface

The town-resort Predeal stretches on a surface of 58,4 Km² (total internal territory in 2000: 930 ha)

Stable population: 5000 persons (1.07.2006), 2100 families

3.2. Climate

- **Climate:** continental-moderate
- **Average temperature:** 14,9°C (in the month of August); -5,1°C (in the month of January); Annual average: 4,9°C; annual amplitude 19,6°C
- **Humidity:** 65% summer; 85% winter
- **Predominant wind:** North-West
- **Average data of the last snowing:** 26th of April
- **Average data of the first snowfall** 24th of October
- **Average data of the last snowfall** 21st of April
- **Average number of the days with snow** 118/annually
- **Average precipitations:** multi-annual average 742,2l/mp; 1255 l/ mp in rainy years; 179,3 l/ mp in droughty years

3.3. Flowing Direction of the Waters

● **The closest possible water course**

In the town-resort Predeal, there are the spring of the river Prahova and of the brook Timiș.

The hydrologic regime of the area Timiș-Predeal disposes of a well organized hydrographical network with high flows along the whole year. The major hydrographic channels that collect the waters on the slopes are: Prahova and Timișul.

● **Flooding**

The water volume during the period of the abundant precipitations has not created problems that should have generated particular floods. The area which is most affected by freshets is the valley of Poliștoaca.

3.4. Access

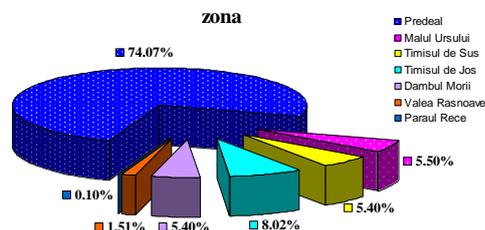
- **Airport.** Accessible airports : Otopeni, Băneasa București – 140 Km; Tg. Mures – 150 Km; Sibiu – 130 Km.
- **Railway:** The access to the station is ensured through connecting roads on trajectories with a maximal length of 10 Km. There are railway stations in Predeal, Timișul de Sus and Timișul de Jos.
- **Main road**
- Main roads in the town: 2 (DC 15; DJ 102P)
- Length of main roads: 10,7 Km; Surface of main roads: 75.000 square meters

- Town-resort Predeal is placed on E-60-DN1. European and national roads: E60-DN1; County roads: DJ102P.

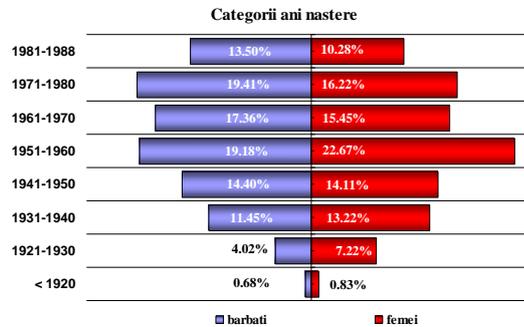
3.5. Population

Note: The data comprised in this section are obtained following the census of the population in Predeal organized in July-September 2006. The objectives of the research were the following:

- ◆ identifying certain characteristics of the community of Predeal: schooling, occupational domains, incomes, structure of the family, characteristics of the dwelling and of the household endowment, etc;
- ◆ performance by the citizens of a brief evaluation of the main public services, of the firms and institutions supplying local public services;
- ◆ identifying the inhabitants' opinions with respect to the main issues with which the local community is confronted with, possible solutions;
- ◆ identifying the inhabitants' opinions with respect to the tourism development during the last years, as well as the opinions with respect to the possible directions for development;
- ◆ identifying the inhabitants' opinions with respect to the different aspects of the waste management.

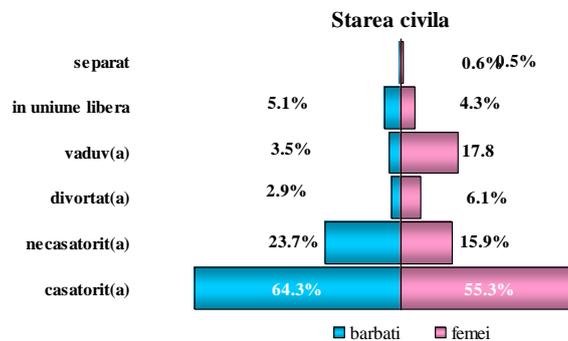


► **Categories years of birth:**



		Birth year	
		Men	Women
Number	Valid	1319	1566
	Missing	663	416
Average		1960.12	1956.99
Median		1961.00	1957.00
Modulus		1949	1954

► **Marital status:**

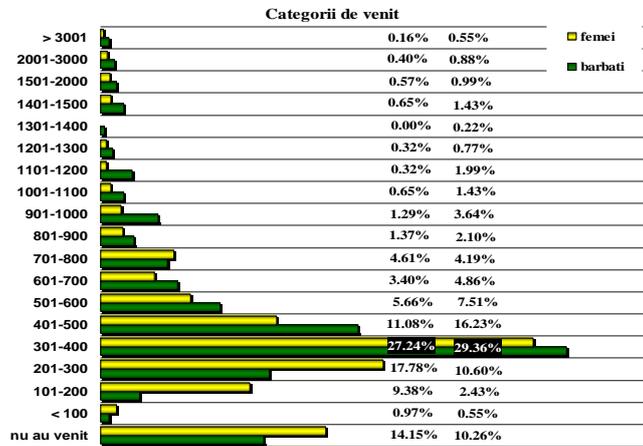


► **Schooling:**

-26,3% among the women and 25% among the respondents are high school graduates with diploma.
 -27,74% among the men and 16,44% among the women are vocational school graduates / apprentices

-11,51% among the men and 11,26% among the women are secondary school graduates.
 -Higher education (including non-graduated faculty) have 13,95% of the men and 13,5% of the women.

► **Categories of income:**



Out of the categories of income higher than 301lei, the men's percentage is greater than that of the women for every category of income in part.

The women's percentage is higher than that of the men for incomes smaller than 300 lei.

► **Commuting persons:**

Total commuting persons: 346 (inclusively commuting persons within the locality: Predeal, Timiş, etc.).

In Timişul de Sus, 40% among the men and 18,4% among the women commute.

In Timişul de Jos, 36,4% among the men and 31,7 among the women commute.

In Dâmbul Morii, 32,9% among the men and 31,6% among the women commute.

Most of the commuting men in Predeal, Timişul de Jos and Dâmbul Morii commute to Braşov. Most of the commuting men in Timişul de Sus commute to Predeal or to Braşov.

Most of the commuting women in Predeal, Timişul de Sus, Timişul de Jos and Dâmbul Morii commute to Braşov.

Out of a total of 346 commuting persons, men and women, 195 (which is 56%) commute to Braşov.

● **Structure of the labour force**

- Wage earners – total about 2000

- Average number wage earners in electrical energy, gases and water 60
- Average number wage earners in civil engineering 250
- Average number wage earners in commerce 150
- Average number wage earners in transportation, storage, post, comm. 40
- Average number wage earners in finance, banking and insurance act. 20
- Average number wage earners in public administration 50
- Average number wage earners in education 50
- Average number wage earners in health 20

(approx 65, with the working place in different localities, including Predeal)

44,5% among the men are permanent wage earners working full time.

29,7% among the men are retired (inclusively those who are both employers and employees).

40,9% among the women are permanent wage earners working full time

34,3% among the men are retired (inclusively those who are both employers and employees).

3.6. Education

- **Theoretical high school “Mihail Săulescu” from Predeal has classes**

for the primary, secondary, high and vocational cycles: 30 classes, 644 pupils.

● **Number pupils/teacher:** approximately 13/1.

● **Courses for adult training/available programs:**

Distance university courses offered by the University of Bucharest.

3.7. Utilities

● **Electricity:** LES 6 KV - 31.488 m; LEA 6 KV - 2612 m; LES 20 KV - 7765 m; LEA 20 KV - 27972 m; LEA 0,4 KV (Classic + Tyir) - 35643 m; LES 0,4 KV - 49980 m; LEA 0,4 KV public lighting (for the separate ones) - 14590 m; LES 0,4 KV public lighting (for the separate ones) - 11437 m; LEA 110 KV - 26 km.

● **Water**

- Sources of water: capture springs 3; capture accumulation 2; subterranean drilling 0; number of reservoirs: 6.
- Necessary water: 145,8 l/s
- Potable water introduced within the network: 1001 thousands mc/year, among whom potable water distributed to the consumers: 893 thousands mc/year
- Potable water distributed to the consumers, recorded by the watermeters: 670,0 thousands mc
- Type network: ramified and annular, Dn: 100-500 mm
- Total length of the simple distribution network: 58,4 Km, among whom
- Length of the streets with water distribution networks: 36,3 km
- Pressure: 6-10 atm
- Water losses in the network: about 2%; Breakdowns in the system: 0,14/day (maxim 1/week)
- Pumping stations: 2 units. Hardness of the water: 30 German grades.

● **Canalization**

- Type system canalization: - unitary 30%. Depuration station - capacity 140mc/h
- Simple total length of the canalization pipes: 16,9 km
- Length of the streets with canalization pipes: 12,9 km
- Number of streets with canalization out of the total streets: about 60% din 93 streets

● **Telephony** - Romtelecom. Level of telephonization: 80% ; Number of public telephones: 6

Suppliers of Internet services (ISP): main suppliers- Astral, XNET. Internet Cafe - 2

3.8. Public Services

● **Police**

Number of employees: 1 Police section with 38 employees; Number of vehicles: 5 motor vehicles

● **Firemen:** Number employees: about 60 persons within the unit, without appointed military men. Number of vehicles, equipment: 2 water machines+froth, 1 auto-ladder, 1 truck 1 aro - all with complete equipment.

● There is no public transport within the locality.

● There are Codreanu buses and minibuses which ensure the connections towards Braşov and Bucharest.

● **Policlinic:** 6 doctors. Ambulance system: 2 doctors, 10 nurses, 5 drivers, 1 unqualified worker; 2 motor vehicles. The closest hospital and the closest maternity are at 25 km, in the city of Braşov.

3.9. Community Endowments

● **Streets:** Total: 93

Total: 65,046 Km, among whom: 46,864 Km modernized; 18,182 km with simple

paving or with stones, macadam, paving in rough stone or in river stone

- **Local newspapers: none. Local radio / television: -**
- **Intravilan surface (ha):** Total 1470,8 (among whom: Predeal: 950,2; Timişul de Sus: 229,6; Timişul de Jos: 208,3; Pârâul Rece: 82,7).
- **School camps: 2** (one at Timişul de Sus and the other at Timişul de Jos).
- **Hotels / motels:** Hotels: 22; touristic villas: 70; Guesthouses: 40; Entertainment parks: 1.
- **Sports bases: 1 sports club** with national and international representation at: alpine and cross-country ski **Sports bases:** 1 stadium, 2 sports halls.
- **Club & and Youth club: 2 cinemas.**

3.10. Structure Of Economic Development

- **Organization: Townhall of the town-resort of Predeal. Associations:** Owners' associations: 19; Dwellers' associations: 7; Non-profit associations: 39.
- Total firms,** with activity (la 30.06.2006): 340 (among whom: with private capital 334; with mixed capital 6).

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