THE CONFESSIONAL STRUCTURE OF HARGHITA, COVASNA AND MUREȘ COUNTIES, IN 2011

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the religious structure of the population in three counties of the geographical-historical province of Transylvania: Harghita, Covasna and Mureș census registered on October 20, 2011, data on this issue, the source is National Institute of Statistics. Regarding to religious structure in the mentioned area, the information is available for 1,031,652 people (of a total of 1,071,890 inhabitants), the majority being Orthodox cult followers (35.11%), followed by Roman Catholic (322,932 people, 31.30%), Protestants (242,680 people, 23.52%), Unitarian (41,905 people, 4.06%), Pentecostal (14,656 people, 1.42%), Greek Catholic (11,834 persons, 1.14%), Seventh-Day Adventists (10,346 people, 1.00%) and a group of other religions, people without religion with 2,167 people each (0.21%) and information unavailable (40,238 persons, 3.75%).

Key words: 2011 Census, Confession, Orthodox, Roman-Catholic, Reformed.

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INTRODUCTION

As for the national structure, the Census of 20th October 2011, registration was based on freedom of religion statements of persons enumerated, but the final results of the census for being a complete collection, was used a method for indirect administrative sources, and the use of statistical methods for apportioning records. Thus, in census data, the final indicator appears unavailable information that has no relevance because it doesn’t provide anything about the census aim, which led to the most significant shortcomings in terms of percentage for representative religions (Pop et al., 2014).

So, in the confessional structure of the population of the three counties (Harghita, Covasna and Mureș), from a total of 1,071,890 inhabitants a number of 40,238 persons whose religious orientation is unavailable. Following the information shown above, the religious structure of the
population in the observation is based on the total number of people declared and not the total number of resident population. This component of structure follows the same classical line of scientific approach, with detailed analysis of the 23 positions evidenced by absolute and relative to the census, from the Orthodox religion to Armenian one, further being mentioned the following categories: other religions, free of religion and atheists. Also, from the beginning we should mention that in the case of confessions made to Census 2011, unlike 2002, there were some changes, namely the recording of confessions in November as the Jehovah's Witnesses, Serb Orthodox religion, the Armenian and the indicator Unavailable information.

WORK METHODOLOGY

Following Table 13, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics on stable population by religion at counties, cities, towns and villages, the census conducted on 20th October 2011, identified 23 positions, clearly marked from 1-23, starting from stable population and ending with information not available. For an analysis as synthetic on the issue under consideration, the group proceeded to the 22 positions as follows: the first six denominations in terms of numbers (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Unitarian, Pentecostal and Greek Catholic) showing each entity, after these there are Another category and atheist, which includes 15 denominations (Baptist, Seventh-Day Adventist, Muslim, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Evangelic religion, Christian of Old Rite, Evangelical Lutheran, Serb Orthodox, Evangelical, Evangelical of Augustan Confession, Mosaic, Armenian, other religion, Free of religion and Atheists).

The action of getting the basic characteristics of the population in this area is motivated by the fact that under communism there were impediments in addressing anuminte religious structure, since it was not recorded in censuses before 1990 note in this regard without proceeding to a description too detailed some of the studies of Cluj Geographic School, on ethnicity, religion and electoral behavior in Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș (Ilieș, 1998; Crețan, 1999, 2006; Bodocan, 2001) and a series of studies of national and religious structure of the population works made for censuses conducted in 1992, 2002 and 2011 (see references), by the authors: Pop, 1991; Pop & Bodocan, 1995; Pop, 2004, 2007; Şeer, 2004; Niță, 2007; Lăcătușu, 2008; Cocean et al., 2013; Tofan, 2013; Pop et al., 2014; Mara, 2014; Tofan, 2014.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION FROM HARGHITA, COVASNA AND MUREȘ COUNTIES

The population census of 2011, the three counties had a total population of 1,071,890 stable inhabitants, with 57,632 (5.10%) were less than in 2002 (1,129,522 inhabitants), but in terms of people who declared their religion, in 2011 there is a much lower total of 1,031,652 people. Consequently, the decrease in the number of people, (also national), there were relatively significant changes in the existing confessions in the area under investigation, so that 9 of them was a decrease in the frequency in 2011 compared to 2002, the most significant occurring in the Orthodox confession (from 35.63% to 35.11%, with 40,217 people less) and the category of other religions (0.21% and 0.21% with 9,366 people less) in the same downward trend enrolling and Reformed confessions (from 24.13% to 23.52% during the nine years), Greek Catholic (1.23% and 1.14%), Unitarian (4.18% and 4.06%), Evangelical Lutheran Church (0.22% and 0.16%), Evangelical Augustan Confession (0.08% and 0.06%), Mosaic (0.01% and 0.00%) and free of religion (0.25% and 0.21%). Eight of the existing confessions were increases in frequency between the two censuses taken in the analysis here fits Roman Catholic adherents (30.86% and 31.30%), Pentecostal (0.92% and 1.42 %), Baptists (0.23% and 0.30%), Seventh (0.83% and 1.00%), Muslims (0.01% and 0.02%), Christian Evangelists (0.11% and 0.13%), Evangelical (0.03% and 0.10%) and atheists (0.03% and 0.06%), and if the Christians old rite, the percentage considered to remain unchanged, being 0.01%. Religious structure of Harghita county in 2011 was declared by 302,144 people (310,867 resident population), this showed as follows: 66.41% Roman Catholic (200,663) 12.46% Orthodox (37,670) Reformed 12.16% (36,760) 6.95% Unitarian...
(21,023) 0.60% Jehovah's Witnesses (1,724), 0.26% Baptist (811), the category of other religions or cults, people without religion, atheists and those undeclared being 1.20% (Pentecostal, Greek Catholic, Adventist, Muslim, Evangelical, Armenian, Jewish, etc.) and 8,723 individuals included in the indicator information not available.

Table 1. General religious structure of the population in Harghita, Covasna and Mures Counties, censuses of 2002 and 2011
(Data source: 2002 & 2011 Censuses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confessions</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Total resident population</td>
<td>1,129,522</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>1,031,652</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Orthodox</td>
<td>402,499</td>
<td>35.63</td>
<td>362,282</td>
<td>35.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Roman-Catholic</td>
<td>348,656</td>
<td>30.86</td>
<td>322,932</td>
<td>31.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Reformed</td>
<td>272,627</td>
<td>24.13</td>
<td>242,680</td>
<td>23.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Pentecostal</td>
<td>10,481</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>14,656</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Greek-Catholic</td>
<td>13,985</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>11,834</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Baptist</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>3,135</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Seventh-Day Adventists</td>
<td>9,436</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>10,346</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Muslim</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Unitarian</td>
<td>47,243</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>41,905</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>9,970</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Christian Evangelical</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Christian of Old Rite</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Lutheran Evangelical</td>
<td>2,546</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>1,713</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Serb Orthodox</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Evangelical</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1,051</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Evangelical of Augustan Confession</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mosaic</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Armenian</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Another religion</td>
<td>11,533</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Free of religion</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Athenies</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Unavailable information¹</td>
<td>1,491</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>40,238</td>
<td>3.75²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majority religion in six urban settlements of Harghita county is Roman Catholic (Vlăița 89.00%, 84.77% Bâile Tușnad 80.71%, Ghioțheni, 73.57% Miercurea Ciuc 73.00% Borșec 73.00%, Odorheiu Secuiesc 51.12%) in the two cities predominant religion is Orthodox (Toplița 71.66% and Bâlan 52.10%) and in Cristu Sauciu, most followers are the Reformed confession (47.70%). At community level in areas with predominantly Hungarian population is characteristic Roman Catholic (37 locations), followed by the Reformed (7 places) and Unitarian (6 locations), the Orthodox cult being characteristic for Romanian population (8 places).

Religious structure of the population in Covasna County in 2011 was declared by 203,744 people (out of 210,177 inhabitants) and shows that 36.20% are Roman Catholics (73,739), 33.27% of religion Reformed (67,791), 21.35% are Orthodox (43,499) 4.26% Unitarians (8,682), 2.31% Pentecostal (4,720). Percentage between 0.1% -0.6% recorded the following religions: Greek

¹ Data from 2002 are named as undeclared religion.
² Relative value calculated from the total resident population (1,071,890 inhabitants).
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Catholic Church (0.11%, 241 people), Baptist (0.22% and 462), Evangelical Lutheran (0.41% and 851), seventh-day Adventist (0.43% and 875) and Jehovah's Witnesses (0.62% and 1,265 people).

People of other religions than those presented represent 0.50% of the total, and people without religion and atheists is a percentage of 0.40% of the population, which added 6,433 persons included in the indicator information not available.

In three towns, the largest number of followers it has reformed cult (Sfântu Gheorghe, 19,975 people, 37.38% of the total of 53,433 persons declared; Baraolt 4,045 people, 47.82% of the total 8,459 people declared and Covasna, 4,386 people 44.57% of the total 9,840), then follow the Roman Catholic worship, the majority only in Târgu Secuiesc (12,808 people, 71.62% of the total of 17,883 persons declared), while holding the most orthodox followers in Romanian town of Întorsura Buzăului (7,171 persons, 98.70%).

![Figure 1. Religious structure in Harghita, Covasna and Mureș counties, in 2011](image)

Total declared rural population in terms of religious orientation is 106,864, of which most belong to the cult of the Roman Catholic parishioners (38,543, 36.07%), the majority in 13 municipalities, followed by the Reformed (35,647, 33.35%), which are predominant in 18 villages, Orthodox (21,559, 20.17%), identified as common mainly in villages, and Pentecostals (4,602, 4.30%), Unitarian (4,040, 3.78%), Greek Catholic (58, 0.05%) and other religions and atheists (2,415, 2.26%).

In Mureș confessional structure of the population in the administrative unit in 2011 was declared by 525,764 people (550,846 inhabitants), ishowing the following situation: 53.46% Orthodox (281,113) 26.27% Reformed (138,129), 9.23% Roman Catholic (48,530), 2.32% Unitarian (12,200), 2.10% Greek Catholic (11,077), 1.78% Pentecostal (9,361) 1.70% seventh-day Adventist (8,979), 1.32% Jehovah's Witnesses (6,981), the category of other religions, people without religion, atheists and those undeclared being 1.78% (9,394 ) (Baptist, Gospel Christian, Evangelical, Muslim, Serbian Orthodox, Jewish, etc.). In eight of urban settlements of Mureș County, the majority religion is Orthodox (Ungheni 82.30%, Sighișoara and Iernut with 76.00%, Târnăveni 75.70%, Sărmașu 73.65%, Luduș 67.85%, Reghin 63.00%, Târgu Mureș 47.87%) in two cities the predominant religion is reformed (Sângereiu de Pădure 54.82% and Miercurea Nirajului 51.40%), in Sovata, the most followers are those of Roman-Catholic religion (48.85%).
Figure 2. The territorial distribution of the main religions in Covasna County in 2011
(Data source: 2011 Census, author: G. B. Tofan)

Regarding the territorial distribution of rural confessions, it is noted that in romanian areas the predominant religion is the Orthodox characteristic for 58 communes and settlements and where Hungarians are the majority, the largest number of followers are those of the reformed religion (29 villages), while Roman Catholicism appears dominant only in four municipalities (Eremitu, Hodoșa, Vârgata and Vețca).

ORTHODOX CONFESSION
Across the all surveyed unit, this is the most representative religion in 2002 holding 35.65% (402,499 parishioners, the total population of 1,129,522 inhabitants), after which in 2011 reached a slightly smaller share of 35.11% (362,282 adherents out of a population of 1,031,652 people).
Compared to the overall recorded frequency Orthodox population values different from one county to another and from one place to another, in the first case the relative (percentage) appears in Mures highest (53.46%) then one in Covasna (21.35%) and lowest in Harghita (12.46%).

In Mureș County, the Orthodox cult was a slight increase compared to 2002 (from 53.25%, 309,337 people in 2002 to 53.46%, 281,113 people in 2011), with 55.44% (144,770 people) in urban areas and 51.51% (136,343 people) in rural areas, where we notice some common frequencies exceeding the value of 90% (Rușii Munți 98.82%, Vătava 98.56%, Tăureni 96.80%, Băla 96.54%, Pogâceanu 95.93%, Craișeni 94.30%, Iclânzel 92.74%, Chiheru de Jos.
92.17%, Zagăr 92.16%, Saschiz 91.47%, Cozma 91.32%, Solovăstru 90.50% and Vișoara 90.23%), but there are a number of places with very low weights below 1% (Neaua 0.22%, Chibed 0.58% and Hodoșa 0.89%).

At the urban level, the high frequency of this confession is expressed by the fact that four of the cities of Mureș County fall to share **above 70%** (Sighișoara, Iernut, Târnăveni, Sârmașu), the difference of **over 80%** falling just for Ungheni, two cities account for **over 60%** (Reghin and Luduș) gap **below 50%** occurred in three Orthodox cities (Târgu Mureș, Sângărgiul de Pădure and Miercurea Nirajului) the situation shown ending with spacing of **less than 10%** (Sovata). From an organizational viewpoint, the Orthodox peoples from Mureș County belong to Orthodox Archdiocese of Alba Iulia, part of Metropolitan of Transylvania, who on November 4, 2005 to the proposal of Archbishop Bartolomeu Anania of Cluj belonged to the Metropolitan of Cluj, Alba, Crișana and Maramureș (Metropolitan chair to Cluj-Napoca), returned later (January 21, 2012) to the Metropolitan of Transylvania, with the Metropolitan in Sibiu, comprising 10 deaneries of the five in Mureș county (Târgu Mureș, Luduș, Reghin, Sighișoara and Târnăveni). Since 2011 the archdiocese is led by Eminence Irineu Pop.

The second county by the number of Orthodox parishioners is Covasna (43,499 people) which is 21.35% of the population reported (203,744). Looking at the urban level, we see that this cult is mostly only Întorsura Buzău (7,171 parishioners, 98.70%), while **over 30%** is spread over specific town Covasna, and the **below 20%** to the Sfântu Gheorghe town and **below 10%**, which recorded two cities (Târgu Secuiesc and Baraolt). In rural areas, 20.17% are Orthodox (21,559 people), the frequency of over 90% recorded in some communes, such as Barcani (3,594 persons, 98.68%), Dobârlău (2,063, 98.61 %), Sita Buzăului (4,387, 96.90%) and Valea Mare (968, 93.16%), while 9 are part of the common difference of **less than 1%** (Brăduț, Catalina, Cernat, Dalnic, Mereni, Poian, Sânteni, Turia and Valea Crișului).

In Harghita County, the Orthodox confession, in line with the evolution of the Romanian population has decreased slightly from 2002 (12.46%, 37,670 people), with 16.90% (21,496 people) in urban areas 9.24% (16,174 persons) in rural areas, where the two shared values exceed the threshold of **90%** (Subcetate 94.60%, 1,717 parishioners and Bilbor 99.73%, 2,606 (parishioners), the fewest being recorded in Satu Mare, Câpâlnița, Porumbeni, Vârșag, Sântimbru, Mădăraș, etc. (31 communes, percentage values are below 1%).

Followers of the last two counties analyzed in terms of organizational belong to Orthodox Diocese of Harghita and Covasna, established in 1994 in order "to render religious and ethnic identity of those who have lost it ... and give hope to the frightened ones"(I. Lăcătușu, V. Lechintan, V. Parsley, 2003), led by Ioan Selejan. The administrative structure of the ward included a total of four deaneries, two in each county (Miercurea Ciuc and Toplița, Sfântu Gheorghe and Întorsura Buzăului).

**ROMAN-CATHOLIC CONFESSION**

This confession, with 31.30% (322,932 people) of the population of the three counties examined in 2002 fell to 30.86% (348,656 people) in 2011, has the highest frequency in Harghita county (66, 41%, 37,670 people), followed by Covasna with 36.19% (73,739 followers) and the lowest in Mureș county (9.23%, 48,530 people). Returning to the first county Harghita, this cult, registered a slightly higher frequency (65.27% in 2002 and 66.41% in 2011), because of a very important segment of the population included in the category of information not available (8,723 people). In urban areas are Roman Catholic confession 74,059 followers (58.25%) of the 127,130 persons reported frequencies of **over 80%** was recorded in three towns (Gheorgheni, Bâile Tușnad and Vlăhița), and the lowest frequency **below 20%** to Cristur Secuiesc.

Most followers of this cult live in rural areas (72.33%, 126,604), the most numerous being deployed in Remetea (5,925), Sândominic (5,908), Ditrău (5,312), Joseni (5,303), Zetea (5,302) Lunea de Jos (5,204), Suseni (4,836) Corund (4,644) etc.
In Covasna and Harghita, the Roman Catholic cult ranks first among the 22 religions registered in 2011 census, accounting for 36.20% (73,739 parishioners) of the population declared (203,744 people), and in rural areas has shares of over 90% in six communes (Estelnic, Ghelnita, Lemnia, Mereni, Poian and Sângieni), while the three common frequencies are below 1% (Barcani, Dobârlău and Sita Buzăului).

Regarding Mureș county, by the number of followers, Roman Catholic ranks third (9.23%, 48,530 people, of which 10.95% in urban areas, 28,601 individuals and 7.53% in rural areas, 19,929 people).

In urban areas this confession is prevalent only in Sovata (48.85%, 4,950 people) and four common (Hodoșa 87.00%, 1,077 people; Eremitu 83.08%, 3,143; Vețca 71.60% 620 and Vârgata 30.30%, 562 persons), while not appearing in Tâureni and Pogăucea.

Roman Catholic religious activity is coordinated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Alba Iulia, led by Eminence György Jakubinyi, one of two Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Romania, with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bucharest, founded by St. Stephen, the first king of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1009 as the Diocese of Transylvania, located in Alba Iulia.

On August 5, 1991 Pope John Paul II raised it to the rank of archbishopric, entering the direct subordination of the Holy See. It operates in 15 deans, of which six are located within three analyzed counties (Târgu Secuiesc, Târgu Mureș, Lower Ciuc, Upper Ciuc, Gheorgheni and Odorhei).

REFORMED CONFESSION (CALVIN)

With 242,680 parishioners in 2011, which means 23.52% of the population reported belonging entire area looked frequency has the following situation: Covasna (33.27% and 67,791 Protestants), Mureș (26.27%, 138,129) and Harghita (12.16%, 36,760).

Analysis of representation at county level, frequency shows the following situation: in Covasna, in three urban settlements belonging, reformation has the largest number of followers: Sfântu Gheorghe (37.38%, 19,975 Protestants, Baraolt (47, 82%, 4,045) and Covasna (44.57%, 4,386 Reformed). Out of the 40 villages, which are 35,647 parishioners in 18 of them was recorded the highest values of reformed confession presence: Moacșa (90.06%, 1,069 people, Reci (89.82%, 2,047) Ghidfalău (2,236, 87.27%), Boroșneu Mare (86.27%, 2,602), Brateș (85.98%, 1,294), Dalnic (85.76%, 813), Bodoc (79.70%, 1,990), Bățani (77.87%, 3,309 people) etc.

In Mureș reformed cult ranks second after the Orthodox in terms of the number of parishioners who but the entire administrative units showed a lower frequency (138,129 persons, 26,27% in 2011 compared of 157,046 people, 27.00% in 2002). At the urban level is mostly onlyin two urban settlements, where the frequency of over 50% with absolute values exceeding 2700 reformed in Miercurea Nirajului (2,731, 51.40%), and Sângerei de Pădure (54.83%, 2,710 Reformed), but most followers are concentrated in rural areas (29.43%, 77,880 Protestants) in common as well: Nea (92.87%, 71,499), Chibed (88.80%, 1,528), Bereni (88,71%, 1,053), Sârăteni (88,33%, 1,400), Ghindari (83.60%, 2,600), Acățari (81.12%, 3,759), Mădărăș (76,81%, 967), Pănet (71,66%, 4,283) etc, while frequencies below 1% are registered in municipalities like Cozma, Crăiești, Cucerdea, Vătava (under three parishioners), because the Orthodox cult holds over 90%.

In Harghita, the third cult after the Roman Catholic and Orthodox is Reformed (12.16%, 36,760 people, of which 15.16% in urban areas, 19,281 Protestants and 9.98% in rural areas, 17,479 people). Places where this cult is predominant are: Cristuru Secuiesc (4,462), Praid (4,305), Feliceni (2,011), Mugeni (1,765), Secuieni (1,524), Atid (1,447), Porumbeni (1,422) and Ulieș (821). Adherents of the analyzed counties belong to the Reformed Church of Transylvania, located in Cluj-Napoca, one of the two dioceses of the Reformed Church in Romania, led by the reformed bishop, Kató Béla. From administratively divided into 16 deaneries in the observation unit is stacked following: Baraolt, Sfântu Gheorghe, Târgu Secuiesc, Mureșană Plain, Mureș, Târnăveni, Odorhei Secuiesc and Gurghiul Valley Reformed Parish.
Figure 4. The territorial distribution of the main religions in Mureș County, in 2011
(Data source: 2011 Census, author: G. B. Tofan)

PENTECOSTAL CONFESSION

It is one of the confessions whose number increased from 10,481 followers (0.92% of the 1,129,522 inhabitants of the three administrative units concerned as study) in 2002 to 14,656 (1.42%) in 2011. Regarding the presence of the religious situation in the counties, we mention first of all that the highest percentage values recorded in Covasna (2.31% Pentecostal 4,720), followed by Mureș County (1.78%, 9,361), then the contemplated number is reduced to below 600 in Harghita County (0.19%, 575).
In Covasna county, the urban is characterized by a frequency of less than 1% of Pentecostals followers confession analyzed (Baraolt, 0.73%, Sfântu Gheorghe, 0.08%, Întorsura Buzăului 0.12% etc, but missing in Târgu Secuiesc, most followers are confined to rural areas (4.43%, 4,602), in some communes such as: Belin (49.04%, 1,328 Pentecostals), the only common in the county where the cult is predominantly is Vâlcele (29.01%, 1,225) and Brăduț (24.03%, 1,099), while in 22 common ethnicity does not appear that any follower.

Pentecostals in Mures County has the highest rise of neo Pentecostals by number of adherents 9,361 (1.78% of the total of 525,764 people declared), most of which 6,564 belong to rural area (2.48%), 32 of the 91 municipalities of the county is characterized by a frequency of less than 1% of Pentecostals followers (Acâșari, Albești, Batoș, Brâncovenesti, Breaza, Ernei, Gânești, Iclânz, Lunca Bradului, Nadeș, Sărățeni, Tâureni, Vătava, Zagăr, etc.) while frequencies above 10% of the confessions are found only in three communes: Bahnea (18.27%), Band (16.96%) and Mica (10.45%). The lowest number of people reported as practicing of Pentecostal cult are recorded in Harghita county (575 persons, 0.19%), of which 54.43% of the total residing in urban areas, most followers being Toplița (183 adherents, 1.40% of the 13,121 people reported), while the Bâile Tușnad and Vlăhița was not recorded any follower. Regarding rural county frequency above 1% is found only in the municipality as Ciucsângheorgiu (1.67%, 79 persons), and in 24 common, the cult is not present.

Christian Pentecostal-Apostolic Church of God of Romania, was considered as a sect since 1910, only in 1950 was recognized as religious by Decree no. 1 203/1950. According to the Charter of organization and operation, this cult has the following parts: the local Church, subsidiary Church, Community (Regional, Ethnic or Territorial), Pentecostal Theological Institute and other educational institutions, and other senior Pension Fund and Aid to Christian God cult - Apostolic Pentecostal from Romania.

GREEK-CATHOLIC CONFESSION

This confession registered a decrease in parishioners across analyzed units from 13,985 (1.23%) in 2002 to 11,834 (1.14%) in 2011. Going down to analysis of the administrative-territorial units, it is noted first that the lowest frequency is recorded in Covasna (0.11%, 241 adherents), while frequencies over 1% and 2% are part of 111 common (Aita Mare, Bâțani, Bodoc, Ilieni, Corund, Gâlăuțaș, Plăieșii de Jos, Secuieni, Acățari, Adămuș, Band, Cuci, Fărăgău, Pâgâceaua, Valea Largă, etc, then category relative values of 1-2%, are 14 common all part of Mures County (Bahnea, Bâla, Bâlăușeri, Corunca, Gornești, Sântana de Mureș, etc), and the third category of territorial representation of this confession to spread over 2%, is characteristic in 19 municipalities (Sâcel, Ațintiș, Chețani, Chiiheru de Jos, Cozma, Cucereda, Livezeni, Lunca, etc) while in the other 45 municipalities cult does not have any remaining practitioner (Arcuș, Brăduț, Poian, Zăbala, Bilbor, Ciceu, Corbu, Lupeni, Zetea, Albești, Mădăraș, Neaua, Vețca, etc).

Since 2005, the United Romanian Church with Rome, under the Code of Canons of the Eastern Church church functions as major archbishop, based in Blaj, consisting of the Archdiocese of Făgărás and Alba Iulia (the largest diocese of the Romanian Church United with Rome, Greek Catholic, both in geographic area and the number of believers, in this case it is appropriate and
considered as a unit study) headed by Archbishop Lucian Muresan, then Diocese of Oradea, Cluj-Gherla Diocese, Diocese of Lugoj and the Diocese of Maramureş.

UNITARIAN CONFESSION

Besides Roman Catholic and Reformed, characteristic for the Hungarian ethnic is the Unitarian which by the number of adherents, in 2011 (41,905 parishioners, 4.06%), ranks fourth, after the Orthodox (362,282 persons), reformed (242,680) and Roman Catholic (322,932), but compared to 2002 (47,243 Unitarians, 4.18%), the cult has a slight decline.

In percentage terms the lowest values are recorded in Mureş county (2.32% of the total 12,200 Unitarians 525,764 people declared), 2.38% of the rural population (Gâleşti 770 people), Adâmuş 751 people, Băgaciu 648 people, etc) and 2.26% of the city (most followers being in Târgu Mures, 3,296 people and Sighișoara 911 people), and in Covasna 8,682 Unitarians (4.26%), distributed approximately evenly the two areas (4,642 parishioners, 4.80% in urban areas, most being from Sfântu Gheorghe (3,075) and Baraolt (1,396) and 4,040 followers, 3.78% in rural areas, where villages notes Vârghiș (1,290 followers), Belin (738), Arcuș (517) and Aita Mare (469). Harghita County has the highest rate of 6.96% (21,023 Unitarians, out of the 302,144 people declared) 7.24% urban population, it is noted by the number Odorhei Secuiesc (4,838 people) and Cristuru Secuiesc (3,236 persons) and 6.75% in the rural areas, including most of the Șimonești confirmed followers (2,612), Mărtiniș (1,898), Avrâmești (1,600), Merești (964), Ocland (887) and Dârjiu (628).

To the administration, management and discipline, parishes are included in the deaneries. Unitarian Church of Transylvania is composed of six deaneries as follows: Cluj-Turda Deanery, Mureș Deanery with the following parishes: Sângiorgiu de Pădure, Sovata, Miercurea Nirajului, Sângiorgiu de Mureș, Târgu Mureș no. 1 and 2, Gâleşti, Vârgata, etc; Târnava Deanery (Adâmuș, Târnăveni, Sighișoara, etc) Cristuru Secuiesc Deanery (Corund, Șimonești, Cristuru Secuiesc, Mihăileni, Avrâmești, Secuieni, etc); Odorhei Secuiesc Deanery (Miercurea Ciuc, Merești, Mărtiniș, Sângeorgiu de Pădure, Ocland, Odorhei Secuiesc no. 1 and 2, Vlăhița, etc) and Three Chairs Deanery - Alba de Sus (Arcuș, Baraolt, Belin, Aita Mare, Valea Crișului, Sfântu Gheorghe, Târgu Secuiesc, Vârghiș etc).

OTHER RELIGIONS AND ATHEISTS

By the six main religions (Orthodox, Reformed, Roman Catholic, Unitarian, Pentecostal and Greek Catholic), which are part of the 96.57% (996,289 people) of the total population of analyzed unit, the following 15 cases (Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Gospel, Christian old Style, Evangelical Lutherans, Serbian Orthodox, Evangelical, evangelical Augustan Confession, Jewish, Armenian, other religion, no religion, atheists), have a total frequency of only 3.42% (35,363 parishioners). Generalized follow of the 15 cases mentioned above in the three counties that recorded the lowest value appears in Harghita (1.63%, 4,937 people), followed by one in Covasna (2.48%, 5,072 people), and the highest is in Mureș (4.82%, 25,354 people). Between these limits relative expression we can determine next steps difference is recorded in the 214 villages, presenting the situation as follows: - under 1%, in urban areas, such values are found only Borsec (0.82%) and Șintura Buzăului (0.67%) and in rural areas in 53 villages (14 in Covasna, Harghita and 7 in Mureș); 1-2%, present in six urban settlements (Miercurea Ciuc, Toplița, Băile Tușnad, Bălan, Cristuru Secuiesc and Târgu Secuiesc) and 37 common, 2-4% is typical in 9 cities and 42 municipalities; and the last gap of over 4% recorded in 8 cities and 55 villages, noting that in two places in Harghita County (Bilbor and Luncș de Sus) are not any atheist or follower of other religions listed above. The following will be considered presentation of 15 cases from Baptists and ending with atheists, that due to the more reduced representation, will be analyzed in absolute values.

a) Baptist religion, with a percentage of 0.30% (3,135 parishioners) in 2011, has the largest number of parishioners in Mureș county (1,862, 0.35%), of which 1,034 in urban areas most numerous being in Târgu Mureș (353 Baptists) and 828 in the rural commune Suplac the most followers (95) and in 31 cities this cult does not have any follower; then in Harghita (811, 0.26%), with 421 in urban (highest
absolute value being recorded in Gheorgheni, 200), while the cult in Bâile Tușnad is not present, and 390 in rural areas (with a maximum of 97 followers to Corund) in 35 of the cities posted sign hyphen (-), which means lack of followers, and Covasna 462 (0.22%) with 244 Baptists in urban settlements (the most numerous being the Sfântu Gheorghe, 95 persons) and 218 persons in rural areas (32 Bixad and Cernat), and 20 communes are registered to their absence.

b) **Seven-Day Adventist religion** is represented by 10,346 parishioners, ie 1.00% of the population of the three counties, the most numerous followers are in Mureș County (8,979, 1.70%), mainly in Târgu Mureș (1,340), Reghin (653), Crăciunești (760) Ceașcu de Câmpie (562), Sâncraiu de Mureș (405), Sântana de Mureș (365), lacking only in 7 communes of the 91 rural settlements, and in Covasna (875, 0.42%), of which 211 in Sfântu Gheorghe and in rural areas the most numerous being Hâșcă (166 followers) and Vâlakele (164 followers) in 20 villages and they are not present, and in Harghita only 492 (0.16%) in urban most numerous being Gheorgheni (81) and Toplica (70), missing in Bâile Tușnad și Băsesc and in rural largest number occurs in Atid (66), and 33 communes are not present.

c) **Muslim religion**, with a frequency of 0.02% (210 members) in the whole area analyzed, shows the largest number of followers in Mureș county (157), especially in Târgu Mureș (70) and Reghin (41), while in rural in almost all villages are recorded not as followers, and where present number is often less than 10 people. In other counties, the number is very low, with 28 members in Covasna, of which 21 are residents in Sfântu Gheorghe, and 25 in Harghita, of which 20 are urban residents (Miercurea Ciuc, Bălan, Gheorgheni și Cristuru Secuiesc).

d) **Jehovah’s Witnesses religion**, in a number of 9970 parishioners, representing 0.96% of the population declared three counties (1,031,652 people), with 6,981 people in Mureș (1.32%), of which 47.26% in Târgu Mureș (from a total of 3,307 followers in urban areas), most rural followers number is Valea Largă (689 people), Cristești (250), Glodeni (248), Zau de Câmpie (215), etc., Harghita County has the highest rise of neo protestants (0.57% and 1724 followers), the most numerous being in Odorheiu Secuiesc (364) and Praid (264) and in Covasna county 1265 controls (0.62% ), with a maximum of 363 followers at Sfântu Gheorghe and 135 witnesses in Boroșneu Mare;

e) **Christian Evangelical religion** with 0.13% (1,410 parishioners) has the following order in the counties list: Mureș (0.20%, 1060), with over 200 parishioners only in Târnăveni and rural registered the highest numbers of Băgaciu (84 people); Harghita (0.08%, 270), with a maximum of 57 persons in Odorheiu Secuiesc and 70 persons in Praid and the last county, Covasna (0.03%, 80 persons, including 56 in rural areas, with less than half focus only in Hâșcă.)

f) **Old Rite Christian religion** is represented with a frequency of 0.01% (107 followers), with a higher concentration in the County (0.01% and 91 people, nearly half the residents of the Municipality of Târgu Mureș) and Covasna are declared only 10 parishioners, only one person in rural areas, the remainder being residents of the Municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe, and in Harghita, the followers of this cult numbers only 6 people, including 4 in Miercurea Ciuc.

g) **Evangelical Lutheran religion** has a percentage of 0.16%, with 1,713 followers, the situation requiring the following hierarchy: Covasna (0.41%, 851 people), and in Mureș (0.13%, 715) and only 147 in Harghita (0.04%) with a clear indication of the fact that most are concentrated in the capital of the county.

h) **Serb Orthodox religion**, with a percentage of 0.01% (133 parishioners), the entire unit under investigation, the Orthodox Serbs are concentrated in Mures county (0.02%, 129 persons), 4 in Harghita and the lowest representation of this religion less than three (indicated by an asterisk in the census), was recorded in Covasna.

i) **Evangelical religion**, with 1,051 parishioners, holds 0.10% of the counties of Harghita, Covasna and Mureș counties, Mureș county concentrated mainly in (0.16, 865 parishioners), then Covasna (0.05%, 102) and Harghita (0.02%, 84).

j) **Evangelical of Augustan Confession**, represented by a total of 652 parishioners (0.06%) is present in the Mureș with 491 followers, 122 Covasna and Harghita with only 39 parishioners.

k) **Mosaic religion** is the the lowest number of followers, or 88 people, of which over 80% are residents of Mureș County (72 persons), while in other counties are under 10 parishioners (7 in Harghita and Covasna 9).
I) Armenian religion occupy the last by one place after the Jewish in terms of number of followers (92 people), 70 are in Harghita, Mureş and only 18 in Covasna.  

m) Another religion 0.21% (2,167 parishioners) represents that segment of the population falling outside the 18 religions (from Orthodox to Armenian), the most numerous being in the Mureş (0.24%, 1,274), then in Harghita (0.16%, 490) and Covasna (0.19%, 403 people).  

n) Free of religion, 0.35% (3,650 people) of the total of 1,031,652 people declared that belong counties studied, the Mureş are included 2,201 persons (0.41%) in Covasna 794 (0.38%) and in Harghita 655 (0.21%).  

O) Atheists are represented by a total of 638 people (0.06%), the lowest number recorded in Covasna (66 persons) and 113 people in Harghita and Mureş County, the maximum number of 459 persons.  

p) Unavailable information first introduced in the act of making the census in Romania, the observation unit is part of a total of 40,238 persons, that represents 3.75% of the total resident population of 1,071,890 inhabitants. In the three administrative units analyzed the situation as follows: 25,082 people in Mureş County 8723 people in Harghita and Covasna 6,433 persons included in information not available.

Generalized in the three counties, it was the establishment of four thresholds of representation in relation to information unavailable, as follows:  
- less than 50 people presented in 89 locations (35 in Harghita, Covasna 23 and 31 in the County);  
- next level between 50-200 people, corresponds to 88 locations (23 in Harghita, Covasna 16 in Covasna and 49 in Mureş);  
- level 200-350 people is characteristic of 20 localities (4 Harghita, 4 Covasna and 12 Mureş);  
- over 350 people there in 17 localities corresponding to urban and rural centers of the three largest counties, 5 Harghita, 2 Covasna and Mureş.

CONCLUSIONS

At the 2011 census, the population of the three counties decreased by 57,632 persons compared to the situation in 2002, but the last population census conducted on 1,071,890 stable inhabitants, only 1,031,625 people declared their religion. Thus resulting in a significant number of people (40,238), whose religious identity is unknown.

Table 2. The general structure of religions in the three counties (Harghita, Covasna and Mureş), in 2002 and 2011 (synthesis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Orthodox</th>
<th>Roman-Catholic</th>
<th>Reformed</th>
<th>Pentecostal</th>
<th>Greek-Catholic</th>
<th>Unitarian</th>
<th>Other religions and atheists3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Harghita</td>
<td>13.26</td>
<td>65.27</td>
<td>12.65</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>7.11</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covasna</td>
<td>22.42</td>
<td>36.15</td>
<td>33.40</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mureş</td>
<td>53.25</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>27.03</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>35.63</td>
<td>30.86</td>
<td>24.13</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Harghita</td>
<td>12.46</td>
<td>66.41</td>
<td>12.16</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>6.96</td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covasna</td>
<td>21.35</td>
<td>36.20</td>
<td>33.27</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mureş</td>
<td>53.47</td>
<td>9.23</td>
<td>26.27</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>35.11</td>
<td>31.30</td>
<td>23.52</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Religious structure, faithfully follows the evolution and the territorial distribution of ethnic groups, reflecting a majority of Orthodox religion (35.11%), in the administrative-territorial units of the upper and middle Mureş, Gurghiu and Târnava Mare rivers and Întorsura Buzăului Depression followed by the Roman Catholic majority in Giurgeu and Ciuc depressions (31.30%), and the Reformed (23.52%), mostly overlapping in Valea Nirajului and

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3”Other ethnicities and undeclared” includes solely the category of other ethnicities, without undeclared.
Târnava Mare, Unitarian (4.06%), the last three of which corresponds Hungarian population, followed by the Pentecostal (1.42%) and Greek Catholic (1.14%). All six confessions comprise 96.57% of the population of these three counties.

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