

THE NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF MARAMUREȘ COUNTY AT THE 20TH OCTOBER 2011 CENSUS

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Abstract: The aim of the following study is to present the territorial distribution of the 20 ethnicities found in Maramureș County, in urban as well as rural areas, and in the 76 administrative-territorial units that make up the county. Regarding the ethnic structure of the population, one must point out that solely 451 536 people declared their ethnicity (out of total of 478 659 people), *Romanians* numbering 374 488 people (82.94%), *Hungarians* 32 618 people (7.22%), while the number of people who claimed the *Ukrainian ethnicity* was 30 786 (6.83%), followed by *Gypsies* – 12 211 people (2.70%), other 16 ethnic groups (*German, Turkish, Russians-Lipovan, Tartar, Serbian, Slovak, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Jews, Czechs, Polish, Chinese, Armenian and Csangos*) with a total of 1 433 people (0.32%), and *other ethnicities* with 179 people (0.04%).

Key words: the 2011 Population Census, Romanians, Ukrainians, Zipsers.

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INTRODUCTION

First of all, one must mention the fact that depicting the evolution of the ethnic structure, before 1989, faced several major hurdles when it came to actual research. Consequently, in the geographic literature of the 1980s, there is only a brief presentation of the ethnic structure and its evolution in Maramureș County (Posea et al., 1980), but after 1989, geography managed to focus on a more in depth analysis of this issue.

Without trying to exhaust the issue, we would like to mention certain authors and researchers, who wrote and published studies dealing with ethnicity and its evolution in Maramureș: Josan et al., 1994; Ilieș, 1994, 1998; Boar, 2001; Popa & Bota, 2003; Dezsi, 2006;

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Puşcaş, 2007; Ilieş, 2007; Hotea, 2008; Scridon, 2012, as well as the studies published by Pop (1991, 2004 and 2014), for the national censuses of 1992, 2002 and 2011.

The first author of this study began to research this topic by writing the paper entitled „*The northern component of the depression alignment of the Central Group of the Eastern Carpathians (Drăgoiasa-Glodu-Bilbor-Secu-Borsec-Corbu-Tulgheş)*”, later extended into a doctoral thesis, published in 2013, as well as *two research studies* in Population Geography, regarding the *ethnic and religious structure of Harghita and Mureş counties, at the 2011 Census*, published in 2014 (please see the references). These last two endeavours belong to a post-doctoral geographic study of ethnicity, religion and electoral behaviour of the population living in Harghita, Covasna and Mureş counties, during 2008-2014.

Returning to the ethnic structure of Maramureş County, at the Census held in 2011, the registration of ethnicity was based on the declaration of the interviewed people. The undeclared people, and the people for whom data was collected indirectly from administrative sources, fall into the „*Unavailable information*” category. Therefore, the frequency of the ethnic structure is calculated based on the number of people who declared their ethnicity, and not based on the total stable population (Tofan, 2014). Thus, out of a total of 478 659 people, only 451 536 people agreed to declare it, while the remaining 27 123 fall under the „*Unavailable information*”.

WORK METHODOLOGY

In order to analyse the 2011 ethnic structure of Maramureş County, according to the current scientific means, we started by collecting statistical data from the *National Institute of Statistics* (www.recensamantromania.ro/rezultate-2), and *Maramureş County Statistics Department* (<http://www.maramures.insse.ro/main.php>), which were then processed, and displayed in a table, graphic and cartographic fashion, all of them playing a major role in the understanding of the territorial situation. The analytical succession of the 21 ethnicities found in Maramureş County will follow the census structure, as: *Romanians, Hungarians, Gypsies, Ukrainians, Germans, Turkish, Russian-Lipovans, Tartars, Serbs, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Croatians, Greeks, Italians, Jews, Czechs, Polish, Chinese, Armenians, Csangos, Macedonians*, plus two categories *other nationalities and unavailable information*. As stated before, the corresponding frequencies to the ethnic structure were calculated based on the number of people declared and not based on the total stable population. All these elements, taken as a whole, enable a synthetic analysis of the ethnic structure of Maramureş, of the urban and rural areas, that is the two municipalities (Baia Mare and Sighetu Marmatei), towns: Baia Sprie, Borşa, Cavnic, Dragomireşti, Sălişte de Sus, Seini, Şomcuta Mare, Târgu Lăpuş, Tăuţii Măgheruş, Ulmeni and Vişeu de Sus.

THE ETHNIC (NATIONAL) STRUCTURE OF POPULATION

In order to perform the best analysis regarding the frequency and territorial distribution of ethnicities in the county, we organized the structure in six categories, depending on their percentages (table 1). Thus, we have the following situation: *the Romanian ethnicity* with 374 488 inhabitants (82.94%) out of a total of 451 536 declared inhabitants, followed by the *Hungarian ethnicity*, with 32 618 inhabitants (7.22%) and *the Ukrainian ethnicity* with 30 786 inhabitants, which leads to a relative value of 6.82%. As a side note, the highest number of Ukrainians can be found in the County of Maramureş.

The fourth ethnicity, in terms of numbers, are *Gypsies*, with 12 211 inhabitants and percentages of 2.70%, followed by the *other ethnicities category*, comprised of 1 433 persons (0.32%).

Romanians

In 2011, Romanians had 82.94% (374 488 inhabitants) of the total of 451 536 people who declared their ethnicity, 218 574 (85.77%) being found in urban areas, while 155 914 (79.26%) in rural areas, in the 63 communes and their 226 villages. Romanians are present in high numbers in *urban areas*, for example in Baia Mare – 96 105 (85.39%) out of a total of 112 549 people, Sighetu

Marmaţiei - 28 634 (83.28%), out of 34 384 declared, then in Baia Sprie – 11 318 (77.66%), out of 11 318 people, Borşa – 25 197 (97.90%) out of 25 738, Cavnic, - 4 064 (84.60%) out of 4 804 people, Dragomireşti, 3 129 (99.52%) out of 3 144, Săliştea de Sus, 4 795 (99.96%) out of 4 797, Seini, 7 011 (81.29%), out of a total of 8 625 people, Şomcuta Mare, 6103 (83.75%) out of 7 287 people, Târgu Lăpuş, 9 787 (87.56%) out of 11 177 people, Tăuţii Măgheruş, 5 891 (86.32%) out of 6 825 people who declared their ethnicity, Ulmeni, 3 764 (53.73%) from 7 006 people and Vişeu de Sus, 12 776 Romanians (91.83%) out of total of 13 913 people.

Table 1. The ethnic structure of Maramureş County, general presentation and urban/rural distribution, in 2011
(Source: the 2011 Census)

Crt. no.	Ethnicities	County		Urban		Rural	
		451536	100.00	254823	100.00	196713	100.00
	Total declared population						
1	Romanians	374488	82.94	218574	85.77	155914	79.26
2	Hungarians	32618	7.22	26507	10.40	6111	3.10
3	Gypsies	12211	2.70	7423	2.91	4788	2.43
4	Ukrainians	30786	6.82	1043	0.41	29743	15.12
5	Germans	1054	0.23	1026	0.40	28	0.01
6	Turks	25	0.00	21	0.00	4	0.00
7	Russians-Lipovans	18	0.00	16	0.00	*	-
8	Tartars	*	-	*	-	-	-
9	Serbians	6	0.00	6	0.00	-	-
10	Slovaks	11	0.00	10	0.00	*	-
11	Bulgarians	4	0.00	3	0.00	*	-
12	Croats	3	0.00	*	-	*	-
13	Greeks	6	0.00	5	0.00	*	-
14	Italians	52	0.01	43	0.01	9	0.00
15	Jews	46	0.01	45	0.01	*	-
16	Czechs	3	0.00	*	-	*	-
17	Polish	8	0.00	7	0.00	*	-
18	Chinese	*	-	*	-	-	-
19	Armenians	8	0.00	4	0.00	4	0.00
20	Csangos	8	0.00	8	0.00	-	-
21	Other ethnicity	179	0.04	77	0.03	102	0.05

In terms of Romanian presence in *rural areas*, that is the 63 communes spread across the county, there were 155914 inhabitants (79.26%) out of a total of 196 713 declared. The numerical situation of Romanians, in the 63 communes, is as follows:

- seven communes are *monoethnic*, that is **100%** Romanians, three of them found in Maramureşului Depression (*Bârsana*, *Bogdan Vodă* and *Poienile Izei*), two in the Someşan Plateau, *Purcăreţ-Boiu Mare* Plateau subunit (*Boiu Mare* and *Vima Mică*), and *Cuşeni*, located in Lăpuşului Hills, and *Bicaz*, situated in Silvaniei Hills, Asuajului Hills subunit;

- in 40 of the 63 communes, the Romanian population exceeds **90%**: Ardasat (99.62%), Asuaju de Sus (99.50%), Băiţa de sub Codru (98.67%), Băseşti (95.38%), Botiza (99.96%), Budeşti (99.90%), Călineşti (99.94%), Cerneşti (96.70%), Cicărlău (99.25%), Coaş (99.56%), Copalnic Mănăştur (92.02%), Deseşti (99.87%), Dumbrăviţa (99.29%), Fărcaşa (97.66%), Gărdani (99.73%), Giuleşti (99.83%), Groşi (98.22%), Groşii Țibleşului (93.43%), Ieud (99.98%), Lăpuş (99.30%), Leordina

(99.71%), Mireșu Mare (98.33%), Moisei (99.95%), Oarța de Jos (99.25%), Oncești (99.93%), Petrova (98.53%), Recea (94.74%), Rona de Jos (98.95%), Rozavlea (99.47%), Săcălășeni (96.17%), Săcel (99.79%), Săpânța (99.64%), Sarasău (96.94%), Șieu (99.91%), Șișești (99.85%), Strâmtura (99.86%), Suci de Sus (95.09%), Vadu Izei (99.80%), Valea Chioarului (91.06%) and Vișeu de Jos (98.80%);

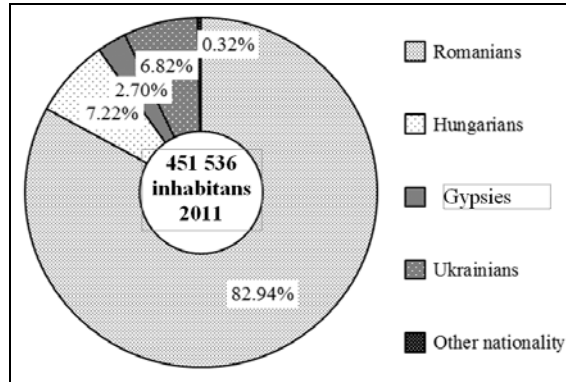


Figure 1. The ethnic structure of Maramureș County, at the 2011 Census.

- a number of six communes have a Romanian population between **70-90%**: Ariniș, Coroieni, Ocna Șugatag, Remetea Chioarului, Sălsig și Satulung, while Băiuț has between **50-70%**;

- in nine communes with a large Hungarian and Ukrainian presence, the Romanian population descended **below 50%**, for example in Bocicoiu Mare (39.29%), Câmpulung la Tisa (24.61%), Remeți (19.07%), Bistra (10.90%), Coltău (6.58%), Rona de Sus (5.18%), Ruscova (3.52%), Poienile de sub Munte (3.19%) and Repedea (1.95%);

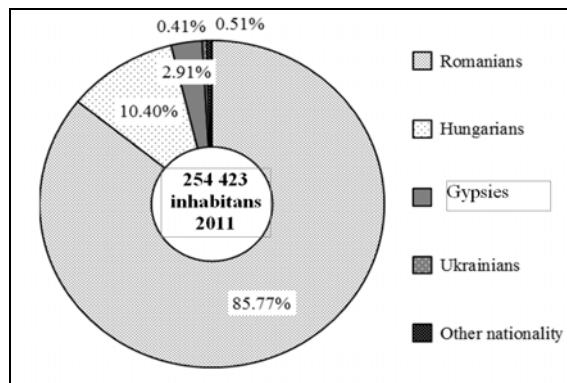


Figure 2. The urban ethnic structure of Maramureș County, at the 2011 Census

Hungarians

They are the largest minority in the county, as they were colonized here in the Middle Ages, especially in the salt rich areas of Ocna Șugatag and Coștiui.

In Maramureș County, at the census held on 20th October 2011, this ethnicity registered 32618 inhabitants, meaning 7.22% of the 451536 people who declared their ethnicity. If we compare urban with rural areas, we see that 26507 Hungarians live in cities and towns (10.40%), while only 6111 (3.11%) live in villages.

In *urban* areas, the situation for the Hungarian population was as follows: Ulmeni (23.80%), Baia Sprie (17.90%), Seini (16.10%), Cavnic (14.60%), Sighetu Marmației (12.80%), Tăuții Măgheruş (12.40%), Târgu Lăpuș (11.50%), Baia Mare (11.30%), Vișeu de Sus (2.78%),

Șomcuta Mare (1.52%), Borșa (1.39%), fewer than three people in Săliștea de Sus, while in Dragomirești, this ethnicity was not present.

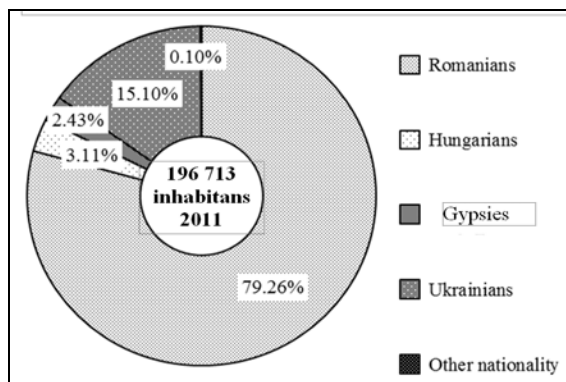


Figure 3. The rural ethnic structure of Maramureș County, at the 2011 Census

In *rural areas*, there were 6111 Hungarians (3.11%), most of them in Coltău (55.30%) and Câmpulung la Tisa (70.80%), higher values being found also in Băiuț (35.10%), Remetea Chioarului (13.00%) and Ariniș (10.90%), while eight communes had a Hungarian population below **10%** (Rona de Sus, Ocna Șugatag, Remeți, Bocicoiu Mare, Groșii Țibleșului, Recea, Satulung and Groși). Values below **1%** were found in 22 communes, eight rural settlements registered fewer than three Hungarians and 20 communes have no registries of such ethnicity (Asuaju de Sus, Bicz, Cupșeni, Oncești, Rozavlea, Săcel, Șieu, Strâmtura etc.).

Gypsies

In Maramureș County, there were 12 211 people who declared themselves as Gypsy (2.70%) out of a total of 451 536 people, 7 423 (2.91%) living in urban areas, while 4 788 (2.43%) in rural areas. In *urban localities*, Gypsies were more numerous in Ulmeni (22.40%) and Șomcuta Mare (14.50%), then in Baia Sprie (4.16%), Baia Mare (2.76%), Seini (2.23%), Sighetu Marmăției (1.43%), Tăuții Măghereș (1.00%), while in other five urban localities (Borșa, Căvnic, Dragomirești, Târgu Lăpuș and Vișeu de Sus) their percentages were below **1%**, and Săliștea de Sus no one registered as such.

In *rural areas*, this ethnicity can be found in 31 communes out of 63, missing from 22 communes which are Adrusat, Băiuț, Bocicoiu Mare, Budești, Cicârlău, Cupșeni, Oncești, Șișești, Vadu Izei etc.

Taking into consideration the percentages of this ethnicity, the 31 communes can be structured as follows:

- **below 1%** includes 19 rural settlements, the lowest absolute values being found in Călinești (1 person), Coaș (1), Giulești (1), Săpânța (1), Groși (2 persons), Vișeu de Jos (2), etc.;

- **between 1-10%** - 18 comune (Băița de sub Codru, Bășești, Câmpulung la Tisa, Cernești, Copalnic-Mănăstur, Fărcașa, Groșii Țibleșului, Mireșu Mare, Ocna Șugatag, Recea, Remetea Chioarului, Remeți, Ruscova, Săcălășeni, Sarasău, Suciul de Sus, Valea Chioarului and Vișeu de Jos), while the **above 10% category** includes four communes: Coltău (38.10%), Satulung (20.60%) and Coroieni (19.70%), Sălsig (10.60%).

Ukrainians

This ethnicity comes third, after Romanians and Hungarians, with a total of 30 786 inhabitants (6.82% of the population that declared its ethnicity), meaning the highest percentage of Ukrainian ethnics in Romania – 50 920 in the whole country.

In 2011, they were found in *urban areas* – 1 043 people (0.41%), distributed as follows: 750 in Sighetu Marmăției (2.18%, of the 34 384 inhabitants), 153 in Baia Mare (0.14% out of 112 549), 81 in Vișeu de Sus (0.58%, out of 13 913), 21 in Borșa (0.08% out of 25 738), 8 in Cavnic (0.17% out of 4 804), five people in Tăuții Măgheruș (0.07% out of 6 825), four in Ulmeni (0.06% out of 7 006), followed by Seini, Șomcuta Mare and Târgu Lăpuș with the (*) sign, indicating fewer than three people, while the towns of Dragomirești and Săliște de Sus have no declared Ukrainian ethnics.

In *rural areas*, Ukrainians numbered 29 743 people, representing 15.10% of the total of 196 713 declared, with the following territorial distribution:

- **over 90%** in three communes from the Vișeuului Basin: Poienile de sub Munte (9 254, 96.30% out of 9 605), Ruscova (5 011 people, 92.90% out of 5 393 inhabitants) and Repedea (4 472 people, 97.30% out of 4 596 people) (figure 4);

- percentages between **70-90%** can be found in three communes located in Maramureșului Depression - Bistra (3 543 people, 87.20%), Rona de Sus (3 213, 86.30%) and Remeți (2 156, 72.00%), while the **50-70% category** is comprised of a single settlement - Bocicoiu Mare (1 975, 53.70%), situated in the same geographic unit;

- the last category corresponds to percentages **below 1%** and comprises 24 communes (Câmpulung de Tisa, Leordina, Ocna Șugatag, Petrova, Recea, Remetea Chioarului, Săpânța, Strâmtura etc.). In the remaining 32 communes, this ethnicity was not registered.

Other ethnicities

Alongside *Romanians* (82.94%), *Hungarians* (7.22%), *Ukrainians* (6.82%) and *Gypsies* (2.70%), there are 16 national minority categories, such as: *Germans*, *Turks*, *Russian-Lipovans*, *Tartars*, *Serbs*, *Slovaks*, *Bulgarians*, *Croatians*, *Greeks*, *Italians*, *Jews*, *Czechs*, *Polish*, *Chinese*, *Armenians* and *Csangs*, plus the *other ethnicity category*.

A) The 16 national minorities (from 5 to 20, in table 1) number 1 433 people (0.32%) of the total declared population of 451 536 people, out of which 1 276 in urban areas (0.51%) and 157 (0.10%) in rural areas.

Germans (Zipsers), with a population of 1 054 inhabitants (0.23%) with 1 026 in urban areas (606 in Vișeu de Sus, 270 in Baia Mare, 57 in Sighetu Marmăției etc.) and 28 in rural localities (5 in Ruscova, 4 in Remeți, 4 in Băiuț, 3 in Săcel, etc.), were initially colonized for lumbering operations.

Turks - 25 people of this ethnicity in the county, with 21 living in urban areas, most of them in Baia Mare (19), and four in rural settlements (Ariniș, Mireșu Mare, Recea and Satulung).

Russian-Lipovans, with a population of 18 out of which 16 in urban areas (9 in Baia Mare, three in Vișeu de Sus, etc.) and only two in rural areas (Ardusat and Strâmtura).

Tartars – solely a single ethnic, living in Baia Sprie.

Serbs - only six people, all residing in urban areas (three people in Baia Mare, and one in each of the following localities: Sighetu Marmăției, Baia Sprie and Șomcuta Mare).

Slovaks are numerically insignificant in the county (11 people), 10 in urban areas (7 in Baia Mare, two in Sighetu Marmăției and one person in Săliște de Sus) and only one in Coltău.

Bulgarians are represented by four people, three residing in Baia Mare and one in Bocicoiu Mare.

Croatians – three ethnics, one in Ulmeni and two in Repedea commune.

There are six **Greeks** in the county, five of them dwelling in urban localities (four in Baia Mare and one in Baia Sprie) and one in the Commune of Repedea.

Italians take the sixth spot after Germans (Zipser) and number 52 people, 43 living in urban areas (32 in Baia Mare, six in Sighetu Marmăției and fewer than three in Borșa, Tăuții Măgheruș and Vișeu de Sus) and 9 in rural localities (three people in Ocna Șugatag and one person in each of the following Coltău, Groși, Lăpuș, Leordina, Moisei and Sălsig).

Jews register a population of 46, out of which 45 can be found in urban areas (32 in Baia Mare, 11 in Sighetu Marmăției and one in Seini as well as in Șomcuta Mare) and one in Poienile de sub Munte Commune.

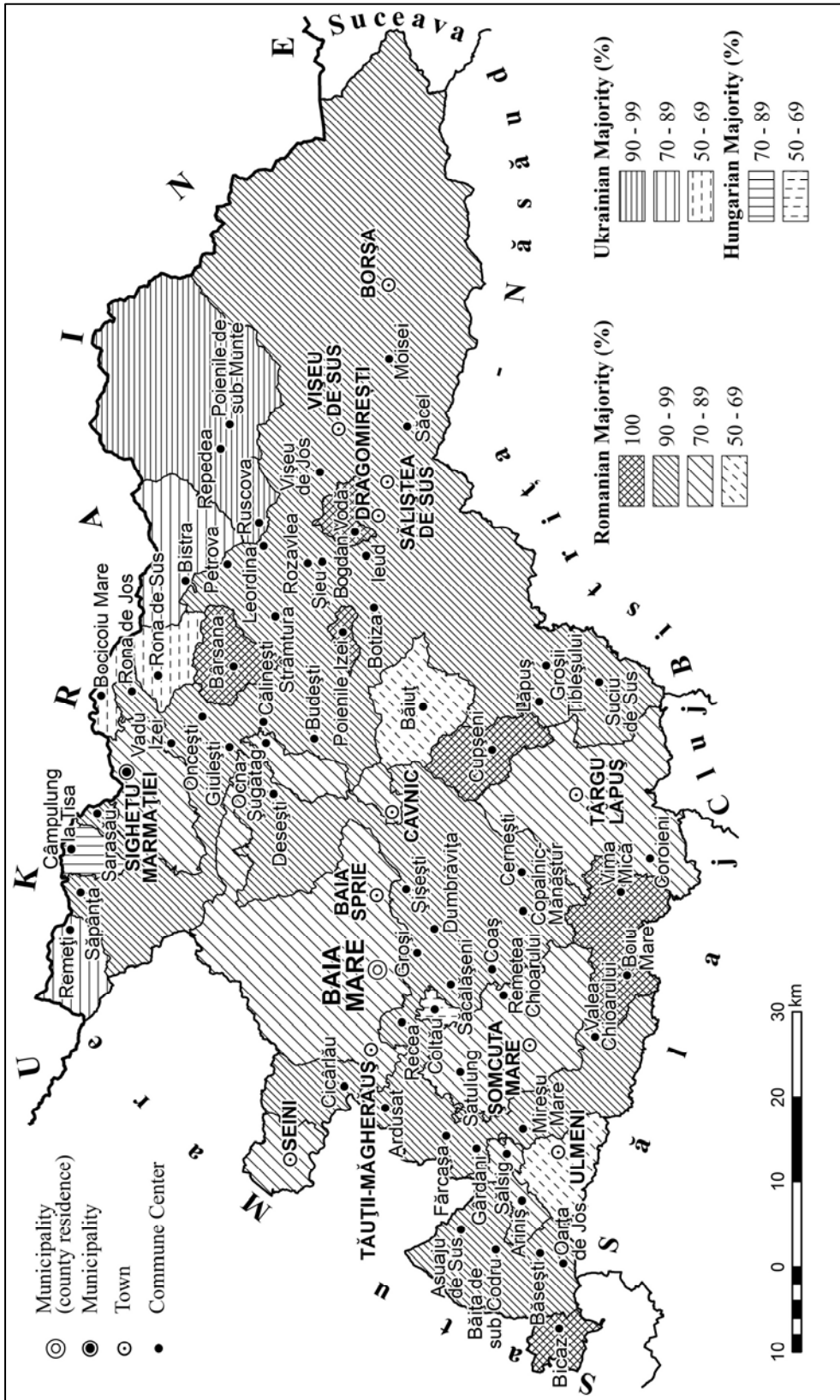


Figure 4. The territorial distribution of the main ethnicities in Maramureș County, 2011

There are only three declared *Czechs*, two in urban areas (Baia Mare and Șomcuta Mare) and one person in Recea.

The *Polish* are represented by 8 people at county level, 7 residing in urban localities (four in Baia Mare and three in Vișeu de Sus) and one in Satulung.

Only one *Chinese ethnic* was registered, in Baia Mare.

Armenians - 8 people, four in towns and cities (fewer than three in Baia Mare, Sighetu Marmăției and Vișeu de Sus) and four in Poienile de sub Munte.

Csangos – likewise 8 people, represents the last minority that we will like to discuss in this paper, as Macedonian ethnics were not found in 2011. Csangos can be found exclusively in urban areas (six in Baia Mare and two in Sighetu Marmăției).

B) The other ethnicity category included, at the 2011 Census, a total number of 179 people, which represent 0.04% of the total declared population of Maramureș. At local levels, there was a strong majority of 77 people, who reside in urban areas (41 in Baia Mare, 11 in Sighetu Marmăției, 11 in Șomcuta Mare, three in Baia Sprie, and fewer than three in Borșa, Cavnic, Dragomirești, Seini, Tăuții Măgheruș and Vișeu de Sus). In rural localities, that is the settlements that make up the 63 communes, the largest number was found in Bistra (69 people), followed by Repedea (15), Bocicoiu Mare (11) and Rona de Sus (3), and by four communes with the (*) sign, meaning fewer than three ethnics (Băiuț, Remeți, Suciul de Sus and Vișeu de Jos). In the remaining 55 communes there were no inhabitants registered in this category.

Unavailable information

Said component is a first for the censuses held in our country, being comprised of, as previously stated, those persons whose information have been collected indirectly, from administrative sources. In Maramureș County, the absolute value of this indicator was 27 123 people, out of which 20 463 in urban areas and 6 660 in rural areas. As this indicator is rather irrelevant in the evaluation of the 21 nationalities, we believe that its analysis is meaningless. Furthermore, this manner of registration led to some inconsistencies in the percentages of the main ethnicities (Pop, 2014).

CONCLUSIONS

As found during the 2011 Census, the population of Maramureș County decreased by 31 451 people compared to 2002, and out of the total stable population (478 659 inhabitants), only 451 536 declared their ethnicity. Consequently, a significant number of people (27 123) were included in the „*Unavailable information*”, as they did not declare their ethnicity, or had their information extracted indirectly from various administrative data, a problematic method, which created difficulties in finding the correct percentage of some of the main ethnicities. We would also like to point out that marking an administrative unit with a (*), meaning fewer than three people. This situation created further problems in finding the proper values.

The national structure of Maramureș is dominated by *Romanians* (89.94%), which in some areas, such as: Bârsana, Bicz, Bogdan Vodă, Boiu Mare, Cupșeni, Poienile Izei and Vima Mică, reached 100%, while in other 44 communes, percentages over 90%. The *Hungarians* (7.22%) had majorities only in Câmpulung la Tisa (70.80%) and Coltău (55.30%), while *Ukrainians* (6.82%), with their largest representation of any county, were a majority in seven settlements from Maramureșului Depression: Poienile de sub Munte, Repedea, Ruscova (over 90%); Bistra, Remeți, Rona de Sus (70-90%) and Bocicoiu Mare (50-70%).

Compared to 2002, only the Gypsy minority experienced increases in its numbers, from 8 913 people (1.74%) in 2002, to 12211 people (2.70%) in 2011, while all the other main ethnicities decreased in numbers: there were 418 405 Romanians in 2002, while in 2011 their numbers fell to 374 488; Hungarians, from 46 300 people in the year 2002 to 32 618 in 2011; Ukrainians decreased from 34 027 in 2002 to 30 786 in 2011, and Germans, from 2 012 ethnics in 2002 to a minute 1 054 in 2011.

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