

Environmental Quality

Case study – Prejmer, Romania

## **Case study – Prejmer, Romania**

### **Rural built environment in balance with natural environment**

Dr. Dana PERNIU

Dr. Camelia DRĂGHICI

Dr. Cristina SALCĂ – ROTARU

Universitatea Transilvania din Braşov, România

The countryside, as a place to live, to provide food or to relax, exerts various pressures on the environment. The environment is both a resource for providing a quality life and the space that encompasses everything that is 'left over' or released, intentionally or not, as a result of socio-economic activities. Imbalances occur in the natural functioning of environmental components and the effects, often cumulative, are felt in the form of disturbances to air, water or soil quality at local, regional, national or even global level. There are communities where efforts are being made to ensure the least possible alteration of the environment, in which projects have the common goal of building the conditions for a quality life for the inhabitants in the cleanest possible environment. In Prejmer, Brasov county, Romania, actions and projects are carried out to preserve and develop the material and cultural values of the community, in balance with the natural environment. In this material the authors have made a presentation of Prejmer from the perspective of the actions that are carried out in the village to preserve the quality of the natural environment.

Prejmer commune is located about fifteen kilometres from Brasov, in the lowland area of the Țării Bârsei Depression, which is part of the Brasov Depression.

The area has a rich hydrographic system, with springs up to half a metre deep or even at the surface. For this reason Prejmer is called the 'village of a thousand springs'. The territory is specifically wetland and is home to many rare flora and fauna species, some of which are protected by law.

This led to the designation of the Prejmer Eutrophic Forests and Wetlands area as a protected natural area of national flora and forestry interest, being also declared a Natura 2000 site.

The first mentions of the human settlement date back to the beginning of the thirteenth century, and one of the origins of the name comes from the Celtic word "prejmir", which means "among the springs".

The village is home to the largest fortified church in south-eastern Europe, built in 1218 by the Teutonic Knights.

The Rural Fortress built around the church has 12-metre high walls and small rooms, which were meant to serve as shelters for the locals against foreign invasions.

The fortress has a strong Gothic flavour, is the place where medieval legends come to life and is part of UNESCO's international cultural heritage.

Today in Prejmer live almost eleven thousand people of different ethnic groups: Romanians, Hungarians, Germans and Roma. The village includes local households, agricultural and fish farms and an industrial park.

The area's specific occupational characteristics are agriculture, livestock and fish farming, as well as trade and services. Dairy and fish-based products are local brands that are being developed and promoted for the benefit of local producers and the region.

Prejmer has a rich environmental heritage, historical and cultural monuments. There are many local traditions and customs, which encourage the practice of leisure and rest tourism, cultural and religious tourism, as well as agrotourism, ethnographic and event tourism.

Since 2007, the largest industrial park in Brasov County has been developed in the area.

In order to protect Prejmer's environmental heritage, the local administration has proposed and carried out a number of projects using various sources of funding.

Within the project "Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control", afforestation works have been and are being carried out by planting tree seedlings on an area of more than 10 hectares.

Through the project "Integrated waste management in the south-east of Brasov County" a modern waste management system has been implemented in rural areas. The village of Prejmer has been designated as a centre for selective collection, compaction and recovery of waste in the south-east of Brasov County. The station has a platform for manure storage with a storage capacity of 2000 tons of manure/year.

The project "Construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant - Module 1" provides for the treatment of wastewater from Prejmer and nearby villages and water from the industrial park. The capacity of the module is twenty thousand population equivalents, but it is planned to build modules two and three to achieve a capacity of sixty thousand population equivalents.

In Prejmer, parks have been built and are being renovated to ensure a pleasant, clean space for residents and children to spend their time.

It is planned to supplement the protection measures of the Natura 2000 site by enclosing the protected area and designating it as a natural reservation with conservation status and to draw up an effective management plan for the Natura 2000 site, including concrete measures to control the increase in human activity due to the development of the Prejmer Industrial Park.

The area is characterized by diverse socio-economic activity, and the local authorities show constant interest in ensuring a balance between the built environment and the natural environment, continuously seeking resources and ways to preserve and protect the natural heritage, thus creating a healthy climate for the inhabitants of the village.

The information in this material is sourced from local or regional authorities, cultural or professional associations.

## References

<https://primariaprejmer.ro>

<https://cetateaprejmer.ro/>

<https://www.turistinfo.ro/prejmer/>

<https://www.producator-agricol.ro/piscicultura/prejmer>

Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway grants

<https://163plopi.ro/clubul-sportiv-ecvestru-163-plopi/>

<https://www.apabrasov.ro/informatii-clienti/statii-de-epurare/>

<https://proiecte-fonduri-ue.apabrasov.ro/pos-meniu/contracte-de-lucrari/>

<https://www.brasovtour.com/en/Attractions/nature/the-eutrophic-forests-and-swamps-reserve-from-prejmer>

<https://peterlengyel.wordpress.com/2013/04/07/unesco-world-heritage-tartlau-prazsmar-prejmer/>

<https://www.producator-agricol.ro/piscicultura/prejmer>

<https://www.apitsiar.ro/frontend/parc/4>

<https://brasovstiri.ro/incepe-programul-de-impadurire-romsilva-trimite-puieti-pentru-plantare-in-judetul-brasov/>

<http://www.fundatiacarpati.ro/formarsh/>

<https://www.zborpestetransilvania.ro/prejmer/>



These documents are made with the financial support of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014 - 2021. Its content (text, photos) do not reflect the official opinion of the Program Operator, the National Contact Point or the Office of the Financial Mechanism. The information and opinions expressed are the sole responsibility of the author(s).



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution - non-commercial 4.0 International license.