



ULST Timisoara
Multidisciplinary Conference on Sustainable Development
 21-22 May 2026



SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ȘAG COMMUNE, TIMIȘ COUNTY

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Abstract: The paper "Socio-economic analysis of the commune of Șag, Timiș County" highlights the main demographic, economic, territorial and socio-cultural characteristics of the commune, in the context of the current processes of peri-urbanization and sustainable development of the rural space. The research starts from the importance of the monographic study as a necessary tool for in-depth knowledge of the locality and for the substantiation of local development strategies. The analysis reveals that Șag is a peri-urban commune located in the proximity of the municipality of Timișoara, with a favorable geographical position, good accessibility and natural resources specific to the Timiș Plain. From a demographic point of view, the commune has experienced, after a period of stagnation and decline, an accelerated population growth in recent years, supported by the residential migration of young families from Timișoara. The age structure indicates a trend of demographic rejuvenation, and the recent positive natural increase confirms the attractiveness of the locality. Economically, agriculture remains an important traditional sector, favored by the large area of agricultural land and the fertility of the soil, but the commune is increasingly distinguished by the diversification of activities towards light industry, logistics and services. The development of the housing stock, the modernization of the infrastructure and the existence of relevant socio-cultural resources strengthen the role of Șag commune as a dynamic peri-urban space. In conclusion, Șag commune has significant development potential, and the socio-economic analysis carried out provides useful support for strategic planning and the orientation of local investments.

Keywords: peri-urbanization; sustainable development; demography; infrastructure; local economy; residential migration

• Introduction

The contemporary rural space is a dynamic environment, in permanent interaction with the urban. In the case of peri-urban municipalities, transformations occur rapidly in demography, housing, economy and infrastructure.

The peri-urban is the space subject to the advancement of the urban, a place of contacts where the urban and rural worlds intertwine and confront each other, resulting in profound demographic, economic, social and cultural transformations.

• Material and method

The study uses monographic and diagnostic analysis, based on demographic, economic, territorial and socio-cultural indicators.

Methods used: descriptive analysis, peri-urban comparison, statistical processing and graphical representation of the data.

• Results and discussions

➤ **Location and resources**

Șag commune is located in the Banat Plain, about 14 km from Timișoara. It borders the localities of Timișoara, Giroc, Pădureni, Parța and Sânmihaiu Român. The relief is specific to the Timiș Plain, with altitudes of 84-90 m. The natural vegetation belongs to the forest-steppe, being mostly replaced by agricultural crops.

➤ **Demographic resources**

The graph on population developments shows three stages: a moderate growth until 2000, followed by a period of decline between 2000 and 2005 and then a period of accelerated recovery after 2015.

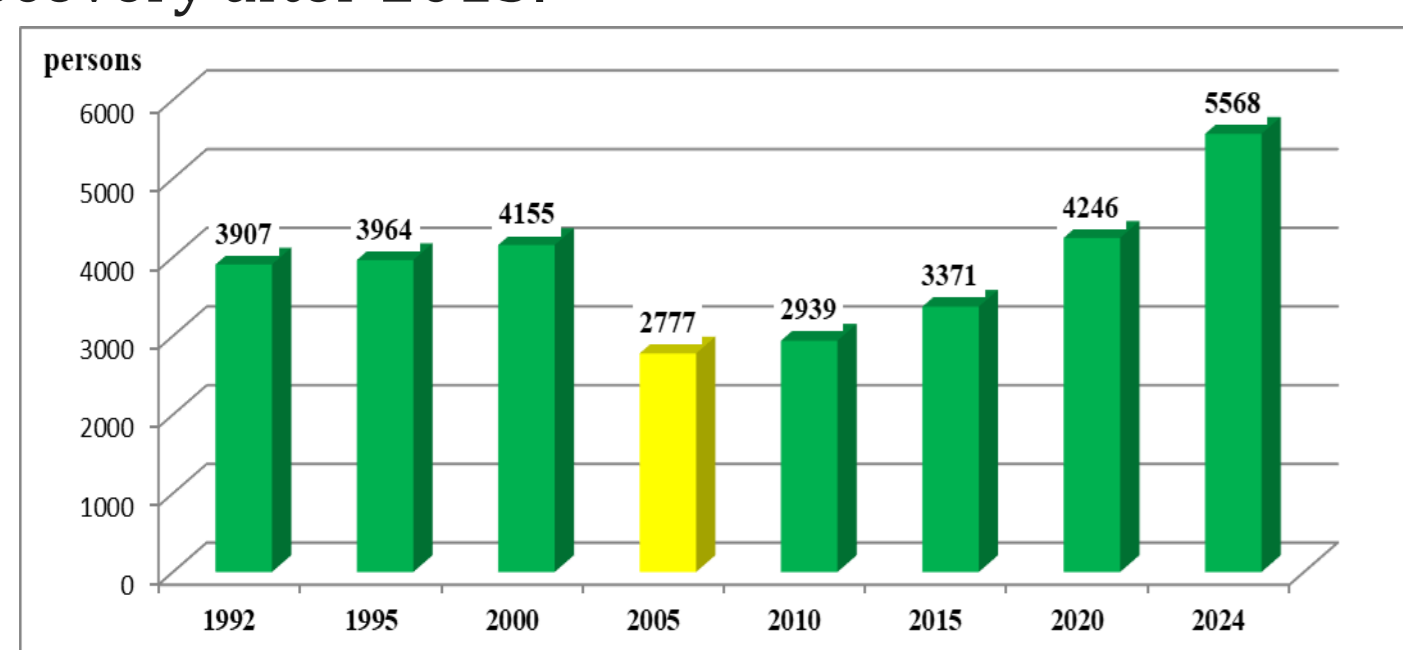


Figure 1 Population evolution in Șag commune

Compared to Giroc and Dumbrăvița, the growth was slower, but after 2020 the commune of Șag begins to follow the same trend of peri-urbanization, transforming from a traditional rural locality into an attractive peri-urban space, with increased pressures on housing, infrastructure and public services.

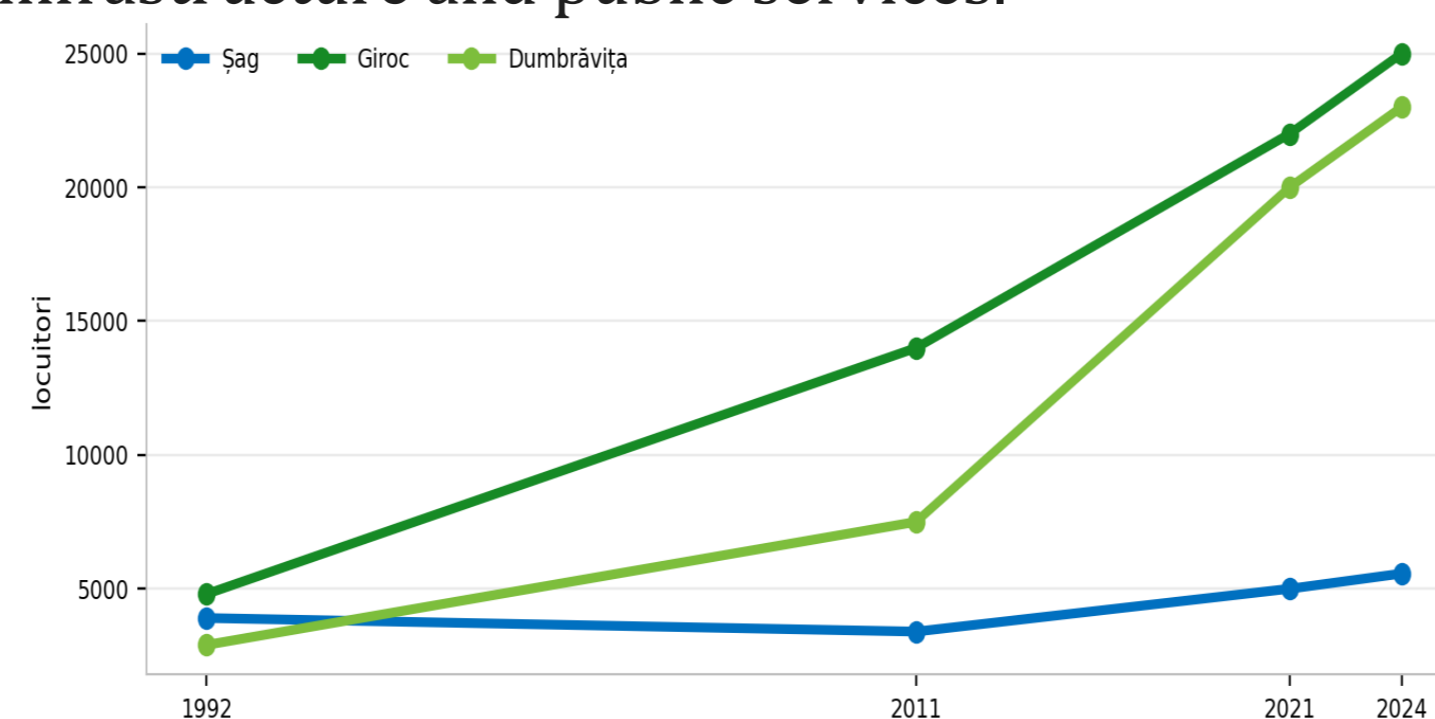


Figure 2 Population evolution in peri-urban communes Timișoara: Șag – Giroc – Dumbrăvița

The age group structure shows an important share of the active population and young families, which supports the demand for education, housing and modern services.

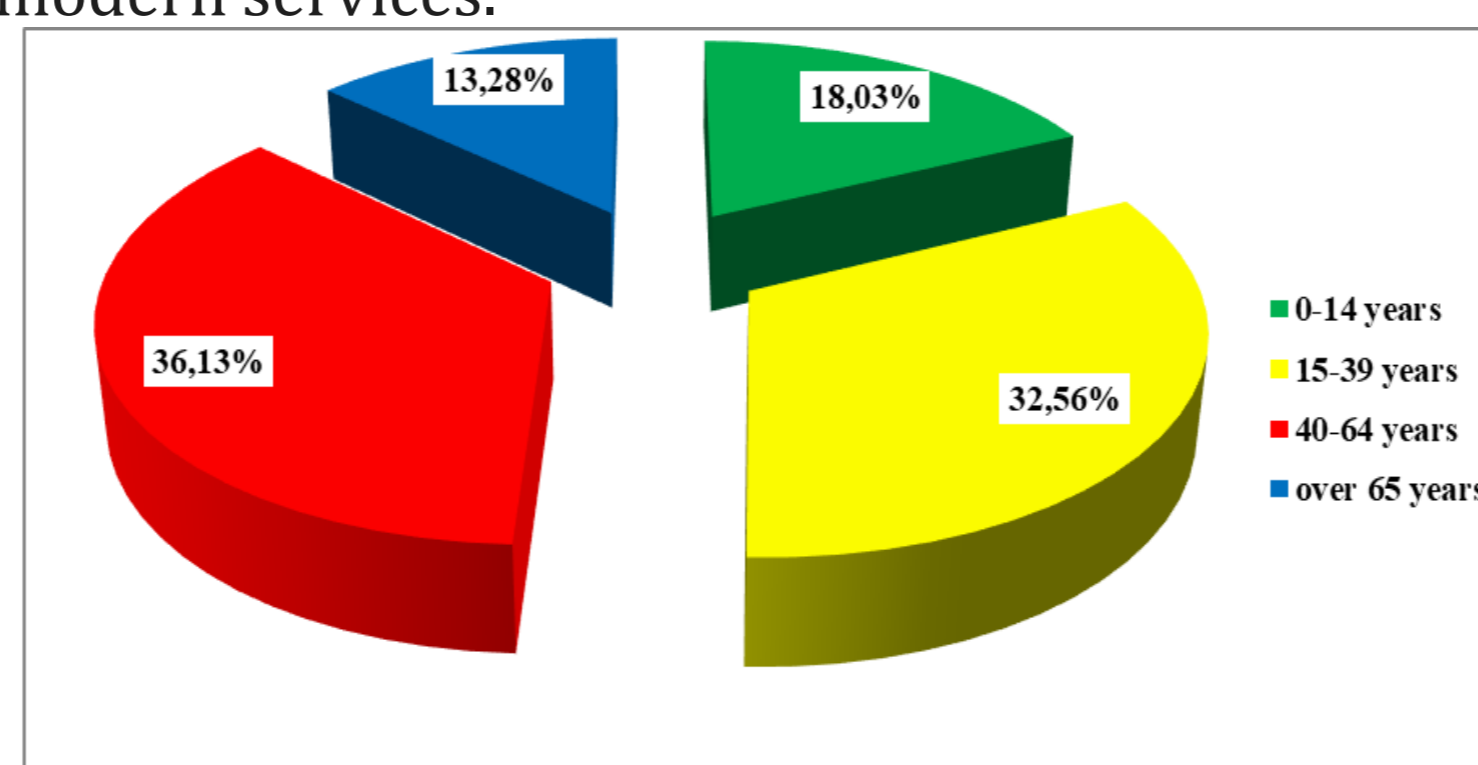


Figure 3 Demographic structure of Șag commune, by age groups

The natural increase returns to positive values in 2018 and 2024, confirming the rejuvenation of the community through residential migration in the Timișoara area.

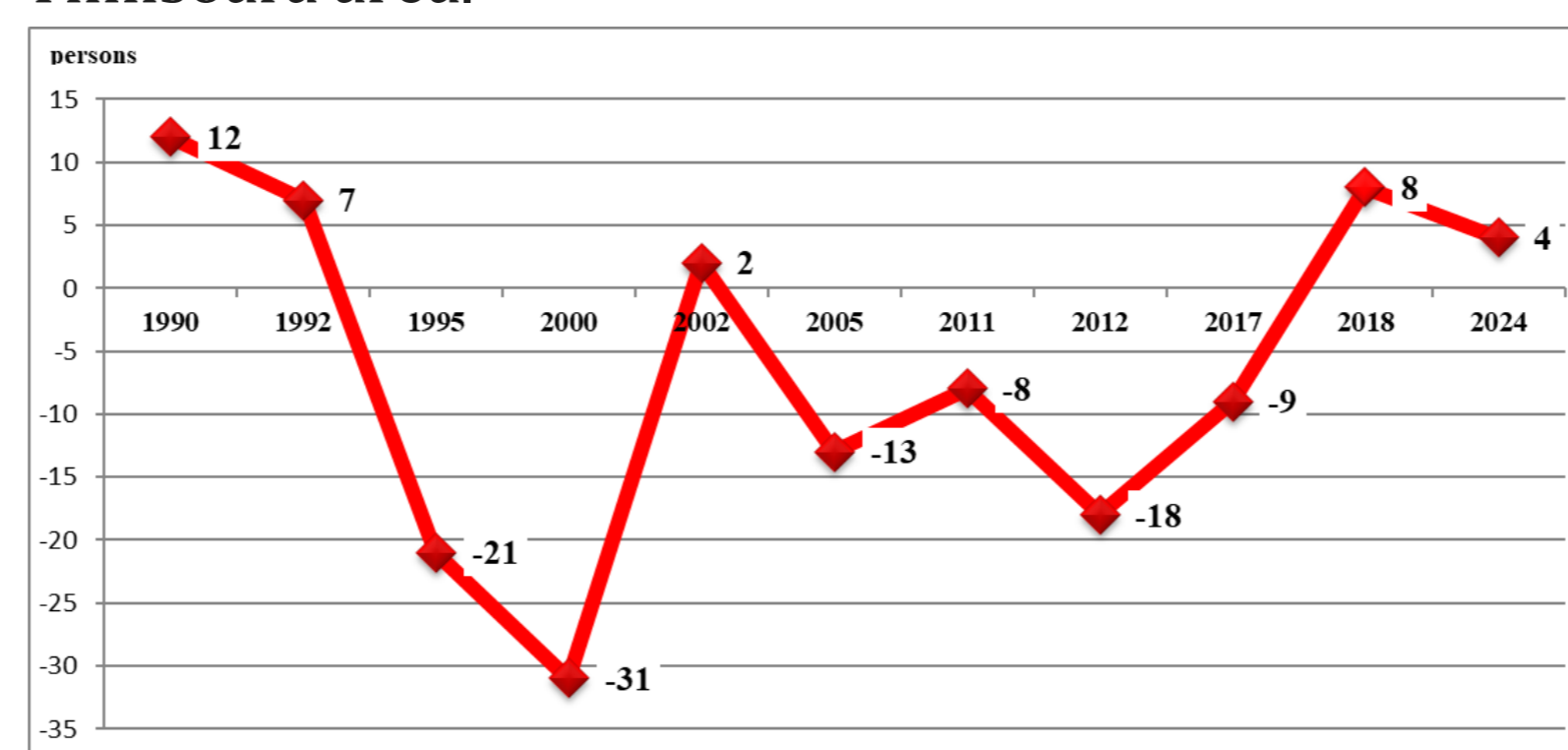


Figure 4 Natural population increase, Șag commune

➤ **Economic potential**

Agriculture remains an important traditional sector in the commune, supported by the fertile lands of the Timiș Plain and the predominance of arable land.

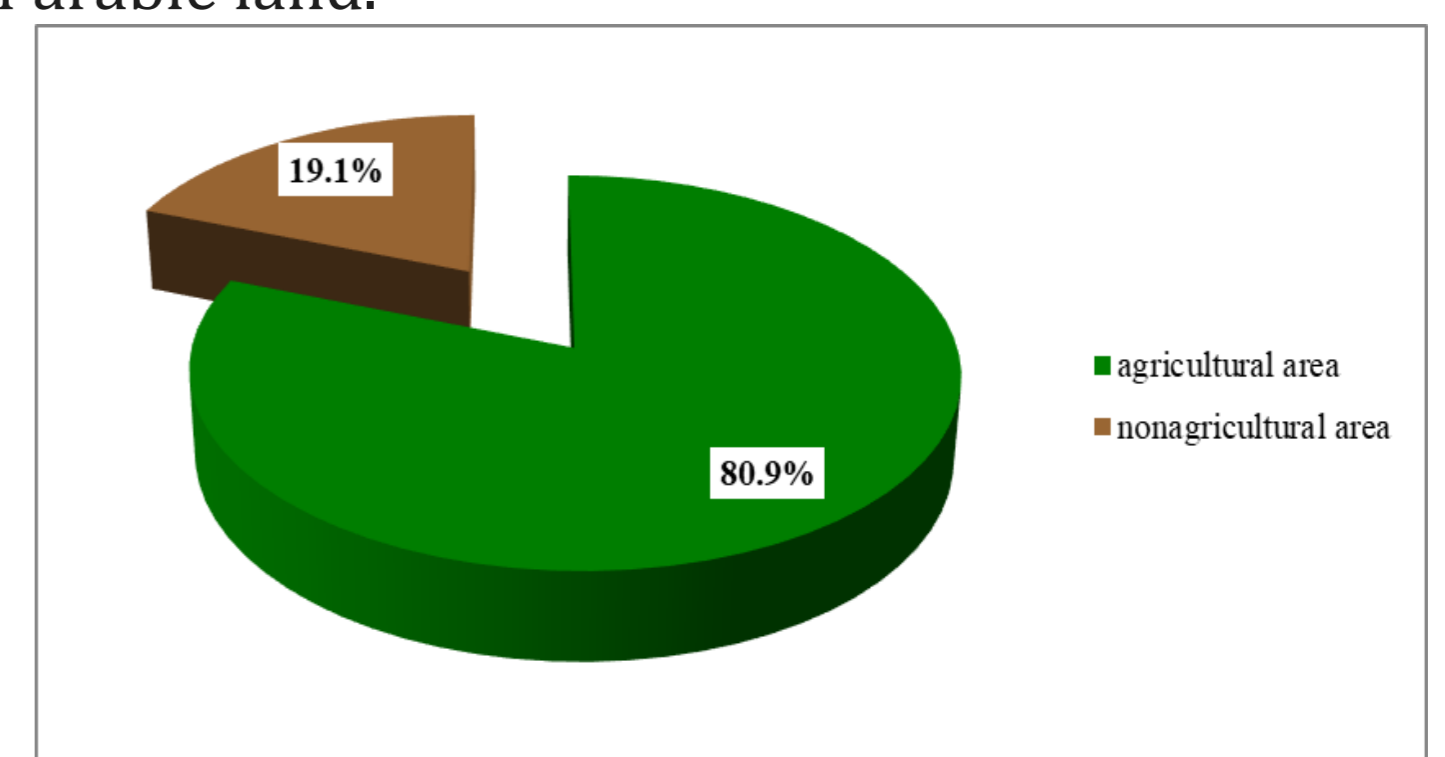


Figure 4 Structure of the land fund of Șag commune

The total land fund is 3,402 ha, of which 80.9% is agricultural land.

Arable land accounts for almost 90% of the agricultural area.

After 2000, the proximity to Timișoara favored the development of services, trade, logistics, constructions and light industrial activities.

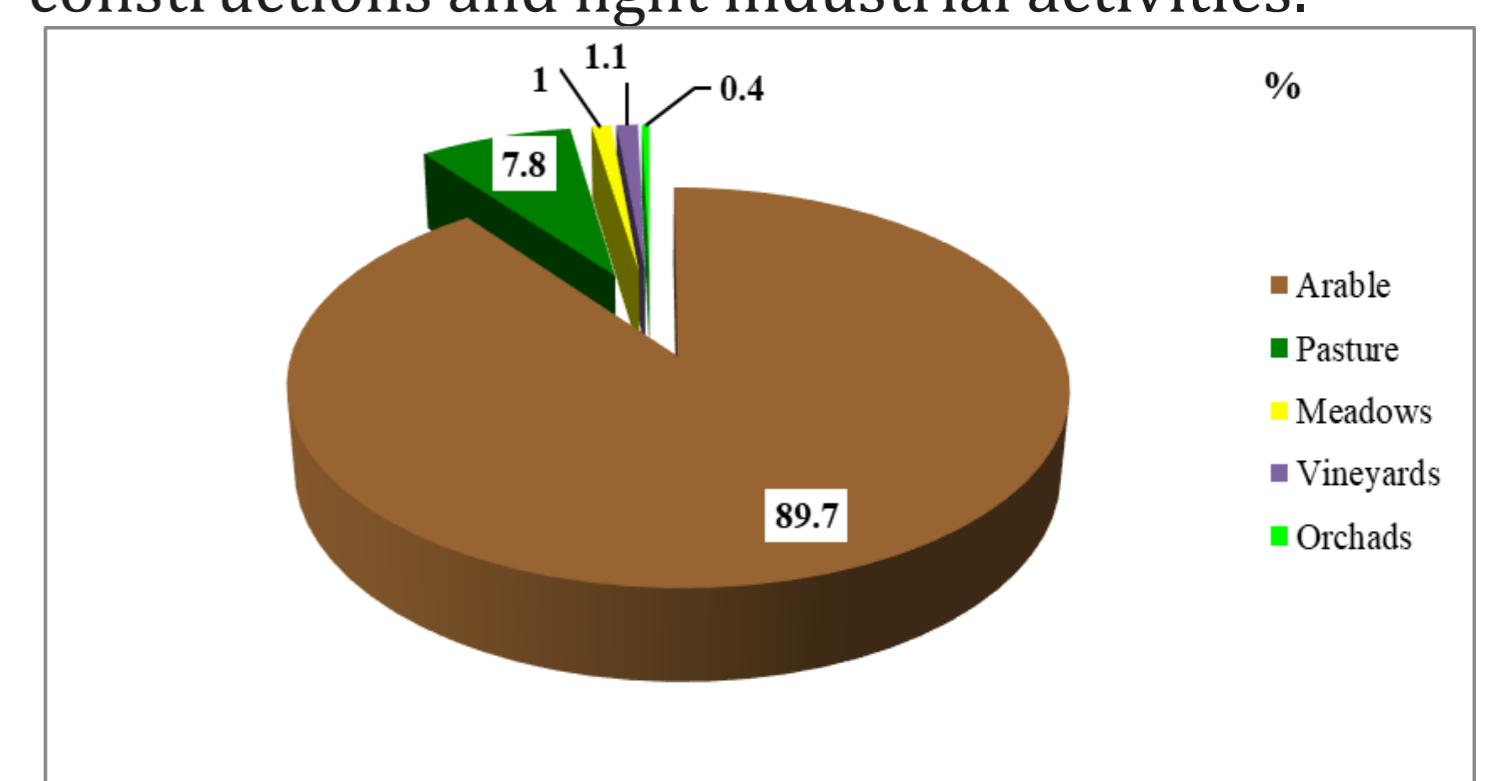


Figure 5 Structure of the agricultural area of Șag commune

➤ **Infrastructure and socio-cultural resources**

The road network is supported by DN59/E70, complemented by communal roads and local streets. The expansion of residential areas requires the modernization of secondary arteries, sidewalks and bicycle paths.

The commune has water, sewerage, natural gas, electricity, telecommunications and high-speed internet networks, but the new neighborhoods require the expansion of these networks.

The school, kindergarten, cultural center, library, places of worship and local associations support the community identity.

• Conclusions

- ➔ The commune of Șag has a high potential for development, due to its position, accessibility and existing agricultural resources.
- ➔ Population growth and community rejuvenation require investment in housing, infrastructure, education and public services.
- ➔ Future development must balance agriculture, residential expansion, the local economy and the protection of the natural resources of the Timiș meadow.