

The geodemographic features of a village in Bucovina: Straja

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Straja is a wonderful Bucovina village, located near the border with Ukraine, which evolved from a modest guard settlement, developed on the slopes of the Putna monastery. A village that has not changed its name throughout history, it comes from the old Slavic language, meaning the place where the guards stay or the place of the vigil, showing the occupation of the inhabitants, that of guarding the road that connected Transylvania with Moldova.

A human community with its social organization, with an economic life that ensures its existence, with its own culture, all of which give it a historical identity through the preservation and transmission of values related to civilization and spirituality. Social dimensions were captured by measuring the evolution of the volume of the population, changes in its structure by gender, age groups, ethnicity, confessions, and the influence of demographic phenomena (birth rate, mortality, migration), on the volume and quality of the population.

The analysis of statistical data indicates a progressive increase in the number of inhabitants, from 1775 to the present day, an almost unmodified ethnic structure, with more than 90% Romanians, and a slight predominance of the male population. The town occupies the smallest area among the mountain communes, with a high population density of over 130 people per km².

For the knowledge of the life of a community, combining quantitative and qualitative methods is necessary; this highlights people's attachment to their native place, an attempt to preserve traditions and the sober folk attitude, the children's desire to continue their studies in prestigious high schools in the county, this being the most important reason why they would leave their native place.

People could say it is not easy to write about a village you do not belong to and only those who are bound to the place have the right to do this. But I am convinced someone may fall in love with a place because of its people and history and customs and because of nature's beautiful scenery.