



SIGHIȘOARA

SIGHIȘOARA CITY HALL

LOCAL AGENDA 21 – Local Plan for Sustainable Development of Sighișoara Municipality

SIGHIȘOARA

2004

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Foreword

by the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Romania

Local Agenda 21 (LA21) was developed and adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as a vehicle for promoting sustainable development. Ten years later, in Johannesburg in 2002, the second summit promoted LA21 as the principal instrument for use in achieving the well-being of the world's population. Aimed at local administration, LA21 promotes, through public participation, a delicate balance between economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection.

The concept of sustainable development calls for a constant re-evaluation of the relationship between man and nature, and solidarity between generations, as the only viable option for long-term development.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Romania actively promotes sustainable development through its support of the project "Building Local Capacity to Implement the Local Agenda 21 in Romania." The project was implemented in nine pilot cities during 2000–2002, and in an additional thirteen cities, during 2003–2004. The project covers a new set of cities every year, under the coordination of the National Centre for Sustainable Development, the UNDP implementing agency for LA21.

This has been a unique participatory process, stimulating the energy of citizens, businesses, academics, NGOs, and local authorities. They all rose to the challenge and their collective efforts have produced this document. This report grew out of local needs and ideas and is a tribute to their efforts, energy and enthusiasm. Whether by giving information, offering technical assistance or through their participation, the whole community has made an enormous contribution to its success.

The result is a coherent strategy with a concrete action and implementation plan. Both offer a concrete certification that the project can meet the needs of the community and represent an important contribution to sustainable development in Romania. I congratulate and thank all those who have contributed to its success.

Soknan Han Jung

UNDP Resident Representative
UN Resident Coordinator



MUNICIPALITY



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Foreword

By the Mayor of Sighisoara Municipality

At the beginning of 2003, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the second phase of the Local Agenda 21 project: the extension phase.

As in the first phase, the project addresses the local administration and the communities themselves, and aims to be a useful tool in the identification of sustainable development opportunities in the municipality. The project is coordinated, as in the first phase, by the National Centre for Sustainable Development in Bucharest.

The concept of sustainable development was first discussed at the World Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, a conference which took place under the aegis of the United Nations Organisation. Sustainable development is defined as satisfying the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs. It follows two key principles: the concept of "need," in particular the essential needs of poor populations, and the idea of limits imposed by the state of the technical and social organisation with respect to the environmental capacity to satisfy present and future needs.

Local Agenda 21 is a plan for development, which promotes sustainable development principles at the level of local administrations. Successful implementation of this project requires the involvement of the local community, as well as an integrated approach to social, economic, and environmental issues. The objectives for the economic and social development of any community must be defined in terms of sustainability.

For the implementation of Local Agenda 21, Sighisoara benefited not only from UNDP support, but also from financial support from the Mihai Eminescu Fund in Great Britain.

The Local Plan for Sustainable Development for Sighisoara Municipality has three sections: the

Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Local Action Plan, and the Priority Projects. The local organisational structures included the Local Steering Committee (LSC) and the Working Groups. The LSC was composed of representatives of the following social groups: local administration, economic agents, NGOs, media, religious groups, syndicates, and representatives of the Agency for Environmental Protection for Mures County, as well as representatives of the Agency for Regional Development - Centre. The working groups were composed of specialists representing the four areas covered in the agenda: social, economic, environmental, and protection of historic monuments and tourism.

Sighisoara City Hall wishes to thank all those involved in the implementation of this project for contributing to the creation of a coherent sustainable development strategy, as well as participating in a dialogue between the local administration and the community. This dialogue was certainly one of the positive specific results of the project.

Local Agenda 21 Sighisoara will represent the starting point of a sustainable development process for the city based on efficient and genuine communication between the local administration and the community.

We wish to thank the National Centre for Sustainable Development for the support and assistance offered for the completion of the project and for their active participation in identifying prospective funding sources for the projects identified in the Local Agenda 21 for Sighisoara.

Ioan Dorin Dăneşan

Mayor



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I. LOCAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SIGHIȘOARA

I.1. EVALUATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I.1.1. Geographical location and relief

Sighisoara Municipality benefits from an advantageous geographical location in the central part of Romania, being as it is situated on the bank of the river Tarnava Mare. The city has a northern latitude of 46° 12' 38" and an eastern longitude of 24° 46' 40".

From the point of view of the geographical relief, Sighisoara Municipality is situated in a hilly area within the plateau of the Tarnava Rivers. Its micromorphology grants it its key position on the bank of the river Tarnava Mare. The Hill of the Citadel rises 475m on a topographically heterogeneous surface from which the city unfolds, spreading from the northwest to the southeast.

The Hill of the Citadel, where the medieval fortress is found, is surrounded by other higher hills, arranged in the form of an enormous natural amphitheatre: to the north, the Train Station Hill (528m); to the west, the Oak Hill (524m); to the south, the Hill in the Middle (511–603 m); and to the east, the Fir Wood Hill (524m).

The core of the city has several levels of altitude – ranging between 350m on the banks of the river Tarnava Mare and 475m on the Hill in the Middle.

The difference in altitude within the city limits as compared to the level of the river Tarnava is approximately 125m, affording the Hill of the Citadel a dominating position for the entire valley upstream of the river Tarnava Mare.

I.1.2. Climate

Owing to its position, Sighisoara has a temperate-continental moderate climate. This gives rise to several particularities, given the geographically undulating nature of the area and the lowered bank of the river Tarnava Mare, and influences thermal conditions and precipitation, resulting in temperature inversions, frequent fog, and currents along the bank.

Average annual temperature is 8.2°C, with an average thermal amplitude of 22-23°C. The maximum recorded temperature is 38.1°C; the minimum recorded temperature is 32.2°C.

Average precipitation is between 650 and 700mm. Atmospheric humidity levels are relatively high at 78% annually. Torrential rains do not have are not extreme and thermal inversions are relatively frequent on the outskirts of the city, though their intensity is reduced by the valley of the river Tarnava Mare. Most frequent winds occur in the northwest part, where they are promoted by the general orientation of the relief and in particular by the bank of the river Tarnava Mare.

I.1.3. Primary and secondary resources

Since underground water sources are insignificant, the principal source of drinking water for Sighisoara Municipality is the river Tarnava Mare. The river serves as a source for both drinking and industrial water for Sighisoara, as well as for Albesti.

The terrain within the area of the municipality's is of combinations of marl and clay, sandstone, and sand, alternating with deposits as a result of rainwater accumulated from the hills. Below this surface layer, along the banks of the river Tarnava Mare and in the valley of the river Saes, there is to be found a layer of

pebbles and sand. Subterranean waters are guided into deposits of varying storage and permeability capacities. Deep waters can also be found in this area in the surface formations, which undergo a subterranean ascent. The groundwater layer is used as pressurised subterranean water through the use of drills at a depth of approximately 70m. These drills were installed on the banks of the river Tarnava Mare: on the left bank near the municipal stadium, in the Tarnava II neighbourhood, and on the right bank in the Siechoff neighbourhood on Cluj St.

Several still waters have been identified by geologists at a depth of 2030m and are considered chlorinated waters.

The oldest underground resources are clay and ballast. Clay and marl is collected in the north-eastern part of the city by S.C. SICERAM S.A. Ballast is collected at temporary locations both uphill and downhill of Sighisoara. The most important is natural gas. The existence of a significant natural gas dome has been identified in the northern part of the city, on the Train Station Hill.

The city is almost entirely encircled by forests from the north, west, south, and southeast. The forest is a source of lumber and represents protected areas containing for the most part deciduous trees (oak and beech).

1.1.4. Areas exposed to natural and atrophic risks

Sighisoara Municipality is located in an area with a 6th degree earthquake risk. In the area of the Hill of the Citadel (Ilarie Chendi Street, Anton Pann Street) areas of damaged terrain have been identified and are prone to landslides due to an overload of vegetal biomass and inadequate agricultural practices (the Hill in the Middle – Saes Meadows, Oak Tree Hill – Ana Ipatescu). Another cause of damage is erosion in the area of the “Goldberch” hill due to the uncontrolled release of household waters. This can be observed on the bank of the river Tarnava Mare, uphill of the city in the central dammed area, in the development of hydrophilic vegetation in both the major and minor riverbeds (i.e. willow); this blocks the flow of the river with vegetal waste (branches) and collects around the supporting pillars of bridges (stoplight area, marketplace, cathedral passage) and in the valley of

the river Saes (Ana Ipatescu section) due to the clogging of the riverbed upstream of the Cornesti dam.

I.2. ENVIRONMENT

I.2.1. Water

I.2.1.1. Infrastructure

Drinking Water Supply

The water supply system has a length of 79.60km and provides drinking water to 98% of the population of the municipality. The remaining 2% possess individual wells. Through the centralised network, a total of 1,731,634m³ of water is supplied to the population, of which 282,000m³ is hot water and 1,449,634m³ (the remainder) cold water, representing 4.37m³ of water per month per citizen. Economic agents consume 1,041,126m³ of water. This quantity of drinking water is exclusively collected from the river Tarnava Mare.

In terms of the technical condition of the network: of the total 87.1km of cold water pipes, 39.55km are in a relatively good condition, while 8km were replaced in recent years and 39.55km are in an advanced state of deterioration and in need of urgent rehabilitation; total losses in the drinking water network are estimated at 35–40%.

Household and Rainwater Sewage System

The household sewage system has a length of 68.30km and serves 75% of the city's population. In the remaining households, waste waters are disposed of via individual systems: septic tanks and basins. From the total length of the household sewage pipes, 12km display problems and are in need of a complete repair. Residual waters received by the city's water purification plant represent 8,640m³/day. The degree of purification of the water treatment plant is 58% for suspensions. The capacity and technology at the water treatment station are out-of-date: the plant is therefore in need of extension and modernisation.

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The rainwater sewage system has a length of 40.90km and serves 60% of the city. The lack of a centralised sewage system in some areas of the city contributes to the pollution of the soil and subterranean waters.

The fact that 25% of the streets are not connected to a sewage system represents a source of pollution and perpetual damage in the areas affected. For example, Primaverii St. has no sewage system, and, as a consequence, residual and rain waters contribute to the destruction of the protective wall next to the railway lines. Similarly, on Avram Iancu St. the protective wall along the DN13 road has been destroyed. And on Tudor Vladimirescu St. landslides occur for similar reasons.

In the hydrographic plateau of the river Tarnava Mare (a total length of 246Km), the municipality is located 142km from natural springs. The river runs through and surrounds the city over a length of approximately 3km. The area is also entered by the following rivers: the Saes, Valea Cainelui, Valea Dracului, and Valea Hertesului.

I.2.1.2. Sources of Drinking Water Found in the Municipality's Administrative Area

Surface water sources are represented by the waters which cross the city, of which only the Tarnava Mare, the Saes, and Valea Cainelui have a permanent flow capacity and can be considered as a source of water supply.

Subterranean water sources. The water flow of the subterranean water sources is extremely low and exhibits great variability; the evolution of their quality is also unknown since there are no drills for analysis at the water collection point. Subterranean drinking water sources do not have set perimeters for hydrological protection.

I.2.1.3. Sources for Drinking Water Found Outside the Municipality's Administrative Area

Surface water sources are represented by the Tarnava Mare, Valea Dracului, Saes, Valea Cainelui,

and Valea Sapartoc rivers, of which the Tarnava Mare is the most important.

Subterranean water sources are: the meadow of the river Tarnava Mare, the area of superior terraces of the river Tarnava Mare, the valley of water courses, and the Transylvanian Plateau.

I.2.1.4. Natural Springs

Considered recreational areas, these natural springs are used by the population as a source of drinking water. In the area of the municipality, twenty permanent natural springs and wells have been identified on public land. According to OMS 536/1995, the drinking water quality has been verified by the Public Health Section. From a bacteriologic point of view, these water sources are generally suitable for human use, while from a chemical point of view some parameters (ammonium ion) are exceeded, and in these cases restrictions are set for children under three years of age. Checks are performed regularly, and the quality of the water is displayed on warning signs.

The city's only lake, Lake Serches, is located to the northwest of the city centre. It has surface area of approx. 0.8ha. It needs to be protected and rendered ecologically friendly.

At present, though favourable locations are known, there are no humid zones established in the city centre or outside the city limits.

Water from the river Tarnava Mare, upstream from Sighisoara, generally meets the quality criteria for drinking water. Where water flows are smaller, however, some limits are exceeded (e.g. chemical consumption of oxygen, ammonium, phosphates, and nitrates). The most important polluters of the river upstream from Sighisoara are: the Cristur water purification plant, and the Saxon Odorheiul, Avicola Cristur, Siceram and Artfil companies.

Inadequate drainage of surface water has led to the swamping of lands upstream of the railway, in the Viilor neighbourhood; this represents a potential source of flooding.

Standards mg/dm ³	Water Plant mg/l 2002 Jan-Dec	Tarnava 2003, month of March							Data
		0	A	B	C	D	E	F	
	360								Capacity l/sec
6.5-8.5	7.4	7.5	7.5	8.5	8.5	7.5	8.5	8.5	Ph
10	3.7	0	3.8	0	2.95	3.0	1.0	7.75	NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/l)
0.1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	PO ₄ ³⁻ (mg/l)
6	9.0	10	10	8.3	6.0	10	8.6	8.4	DO (mg/l)
0.05	–	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	Pb ²⁺ (mol/l)

O – Water Plant

B – Glass Factory

D – Large Bridge

F – Venchi

A – Baragan neighbourhood

C – Viilor neighbourhood

E – Saes

Within the municipality, the water of the river Tarnava Mare is mainly polluted by:

- the release of used household waters from discharge outlets of the rain water sewage network;
- the release of used water through the discharge outlets of sewers which control the individual

sewage system owing to their own hydraulic incapacibilities; and

- the pollution of tributaries, especially the Saes and Valea Cainelui, due to the release of used waters through the discharge outlets of rain water sewage networks resulting from incorrect linkages, inadequate management of waste, and lack of household sewage networks in the localities.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Majority of the population is connected to the drinking water supply network. Quantity of available drinking water satisfies the needs of the city. Existence of hydrographic network with a high density.	25% of streets are not connected to the sewage network. Low output of water treatment plant. Sewage system is overused in the area of the citadel and the old city centre.
OPPORTUNITIES	RISKS
Rebuilding of the wells within the walls of the medieval citadel. Improvement of Lake Serches.	Flood risks due to the course of the river Tarnava Mare within the city. Damage to the wall of the citadel due to lack of drainage pipes. Damage to the supporting wall between the DN13 road and the railway station due to lack of sewage system.

I.2.2. Air

I.2.2.1. Air Quality

Air, one of the most important natural sources for Romania, is necessary for the functioning of the ecosystem and natural habitats. It is also an active

factor in the modification of biotopes and presents the largest potential for pollution.

In Romania, the air is exposed to local pollution from the development of excessive industry that has no protection limits. Though the activities of this industry have decreased significantly in recent years, its ability to pollute has not decreased.

On a national level, air pollution is below the average levels found in European Union countries. The industrial development expected at the beginning of

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the third millennium is expected to bring significant pollution to Romania. It is therefore imperative that laws set by the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection for Mures County be followed. This organisation has put together a list of urban and major industrial sources of pollution.

Sources of pollution include:

- Heating of houses, as well as commercial and institutional organisations
- Automotive traffic
- Services (car washes, automotive garages, natural gas distribution, etc.)
- Depositing and incineration of solid waste

The principal sources of air pollution in Sighisoara are:

- Industrial activity
- Urban car traffic
- Rail traffic
- Heat and hot water production
- Agricultural activity

Common pollutants, such as SO₂, NO_x, CO, N₂O, solid particles, organic compounds, and CO₂ are the result of: heating from thermal stations or with proper resources, household food preparation, heating of institutions, thermal stations for institutions, and industrial incinerators. Companies causing this pollution include: Artfil, Cesiro, Siceram, Stimet, and VES. Maximum concentrations per 30 minutes reach their highest values of between 20 and 40 μg/m³ in the Albesti industrial area and the city centre. The level of impurities in terms of CO and F (fluorine), expressed in maximum concentrations per 30 minutes, are to be found in the northern part of the city in the area of S.C. Siceram S.A. and the Albesti industrial area. The maximum impurity in terms of F can be found in the Viilor area and towards Albesti.

Synergy Effect

Suspended particles and NO₂ increase their negative effects on public health reciprocally. In Sighisoara Municipality, synergy coefficients are highest in the city centre, the industrial area towards Albesti, and the Viilor industrial area.

The levels of atmospheric pollution in Sighisoara in inhabited areas fall far below the norms for the protection of public health, for the short-term, with fluorine components.

In addition, fixed sources do not generate conditions of chemical stress to vegetal life. Given the humid quality of the atmosphere and the impurity levels of NO₂, the city centre is characterised by aggressively weak building conditions.

I.2.3. Aspects Related to Biodiversity

Protection of biodiversity has become one of the main objectives in the protection of nature. Climate, relief, large forested areas and a multitude of different habitats creates the conditions for a high level of diversity with regard to flora and fauna.

I.2.3.1. Vegetation

The city is surrounded by approx. 3,460 of forest, 1,311ha of agricultural land, 1,828ha of meadows, and 1,321ha of hayfields. In terms of flora, Sighisoara and the surrounding areas fall into the Central European Region; more precisely: the western part of the south-eastern Transylvanian plateau vegetation district. Approx. 1,200 species of plants have been identified, including wooden species. The proximity of the Tarnava Mare riverbed is characterised by the presence of agricultural terrain on the sites of previously existing oak forests and meadows covered by *Agrostis enuis*, *Fesuca sulcata*, *F. pseudovina*, and various grasses.

The various vegetal groups are characterised by:

Hillside forests – occupying the slopes and the tops of hills of the area, spreading as far as 300–500 m and composed of oak, beech, and others.

Meadow forests – mainly occupying the lower areas, near the Tarnava Mare meadow, mostly of willow and poplar.

Meadow hayfields – with mezophilic herbs (in drier areas) and hydrophilic (in more humid areas); the entire meadow having a typical steppe aspect and plants with thorns (bramble), characteristic of these regions.

Primary natural vegetation has been severely affected by human activity: these areas are currently used for animal breeding, plants, forest exploitation, handicraft activities, industrial activities, and housing.

I.2.3.2. Wooden Flora

Wooden mass grows by 6m³/ha/year, of which 3m³/ha/year is harvested. In the forests surrounding the city there is only cutting of trees for the purposes of regeneration and no deforestation is taking place. Around the city there are approximately 1,200 ha (approx. 35%) of forests with a protective role. Only special cutting of trees takes place here for regeneration purposes on small surface areas. Invertebrate pests do not have damaging effects. In addition, pollution from Copsa Mica is not significant here.

Among Sighisoara's spontaneous flora, the following have been identified: 70 species, 6 sub-species, varieties and forms, and 1 hybrid. The forests in the Sighisoara area are for the most part made up of oak and holm oak, accompanied mostly by hornbeam. Smaller surfaces, especially on shady slopes and in dark valleys, are covered by hillside hilly beech, in particular, beech. Among the wooden species, European and central-European floral elements dominate. In the composition of forests, several Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean species can be found, such as ivy. Among the hydrophylic species, the *Salix rosmarinifolia* stands out and can be found in the Saes swamplands.

Kernels are used for purposes of reforestation (14 species). Often, the kernels used do not generally grow naturally in hillside areas, and sometimes even exotic species are used. These elements enrich the floral diversity of the area and the aesthetic aspect of the scenery. In certain cases, the wild nature of the species introduced can be observed. 161 wooden species have been identified, of which 57 indigenous and introduced species require protection. Throughout the preservation proposal, the criteria of rarity, monumentality, and decorative value were into consideration.

A summative inventory of the Breite plateau carried out by the "Sustainable Sighisoara" Foundation, concluded that there are 500 oak specimens, of which 400 are over 400 years old, some being as old as 700–800 years old. The configuration of the land, as well as the geographical structure, render the oaks found on the Breite plateau unique.

I.2.3.3. Spontaneous Herbal Flora

Among the spontaneous flora, there are species of herbs (ex. *Trollius europaeus*), which appear on the

Red List of plants in Romania. In the city, several species from the *Orhideaceae* family have been identified (Romania's flora contains approx. 50 species), including: *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Apold), *Epipactis palustris* (Below the fortress – Sighisoara, Saes swampland area), *Orchis morio*, *Epipactis helleborine*, *Listera ovata* (Breite plateau). Other plants, rare at a European level, such as the forest lilly (*Lilium martagon*) and the bush "cuckoo's wood" have been abandoned on the local level.

In conclusion: the city and surrounding area is of particular interest in terms of flora.

I.2.3.4. Fauna

The typical fauna of the area is well represented, and falls within the following categories:

- Deciduous forest fauna
- Meadow fauna
- Aquatic fauna

Sighisoara has some extremely valuable natural areas, where animals with bioindicator roles meet, many of which are abundant locally, though they may be endangered at a European level.

In the Sighisoara area there are 18 species of dragonflies and 80 species of butterflies. In both groups, there are species which are representative ecologically and indicate the presence of other species of plant and animal. The butterfly species were identified on the Breite plateau, while the dragonfly species were identified at Lake Serches.

The river Tarnava Mare has 13 species of fish, of which 9 are native species as identified in 1964 (Bănărescu, P., Osteichtyes. Ed. Acad. R.P.R). There are 4 species which appeared after the 1960s. In the ponds surrounding the city there are 10 species of fish, 4 species of which were introduced (from Asia and North America).

Amphibians are represented by 12 species (Romania has a total of 19), the majority of which are protected. Two lakes play a particularly important role in the preservation of these species: Lake Serches and Lake Rusu, both of which are in the proximity of forests. The population of swamp turtle (found in Lake Serches) is in decline. The frog predominates in the ponds found in the forest on the Hill of the Train Station (over 300 specimens), and in the forest near the Vila Franca camping ground. Here can be found the largest frog

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population of the area, a species protected in Romania under Emergency Ordinance No. 236/2000. There are 7 reptile species, including the swamp turtle, which can be found in both lakes (Serches and Rusu), and the forest snake, which can be found in low numbers in the forests covering the southern part of the city. There are approx. 107 species of bird, and this is therefore an important element for ecotourism. The area of Lake Serches hosts procreation of numerous aquatic species. Among mammals, there are 12 species of bats (Romania has a total of 30). These include the rare species *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *N. leisleri*, and *Eptesicus nilsonnii*. In Romania, all species of bats are protected by law.

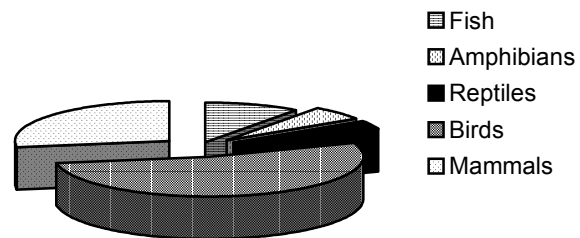
Number of species by animal group and their status.*

Group	No. of species in the Sighisoara area	No. of species in the area whose preservation requires the designation of special conservation areas	No. of species in the area in need of strict protection
Dragonflies	18	0	0
Butterflies	80	1	2
Fish	20	3	1
Amphibians	12	6	6
Reptiles	7	1	2
Birds	107	11	approx. 65
Mammals	approx. 50	approx. 5	approx. 16

* as defined by Emergency Ordinance No. 236/2000 regarding the state of protected natural areas and preservation of natural habitats, flora and wild fauna

Population estimates for animal species with a synergy interest made by the Hunter's Association show that the number of specimens falls within optimum ranges. This can be seen in the number of stag (270 specimens), deer (approx. 1,000), wolf (10 to 20 specimens), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) (150 to 200 specimens, spring evaluation), and wild cat (60 specimens).

Proportions of vertebrate species identified in the area around the city of Sighisoara



Aquatic ecosystems in the area around the city show a high level of diversity, which as such is a reflection of the healthy state of the natural environment. This diversity, together with the large population of species which are in decline elsewhere in Europe, is fostered by the extensive forests with undisturbed areas, the large diversity of habitats and microhabitats, and the presence of humid areas. Maintenance of this biodiversity represents an important element in plans for sustainable development.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Large variety of ecosystems and species	Lack of protection for areas considered extremely valuable from an ecological point of view
Natural environment favourable to rest and recreation	Waste deposit and dumping of waste water in natural areas
Existence of a natural reserve of oak trees which are unique and hundreds of years old	Lack of detailed ecological studies

I.2.4. Waste Management

The monitoring of waste in Sighisoara Municipality is carried out by the Sanitation Office of the City Hall. Collection services, transportation of waste, and street cleaning is performed by S.C. Schuster Ecosal S.R.L. This company possesses an automotive park with several pieces of equipment and has 60 employees.

The first stage of waste collection uses Euro Waste bins of 120 and 140 litres, and Euro containers of 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10m³.

This first stage of waste collection from the population and its transport is carried out in accordance with a daily street collection system.

The majority of economic agents have signed contracts for the services of S.C.Schuster Ecosal

S.R.L. in terms of waste transport. The obligations of both parties are outlined in the contracts. Nonetheless, some companies transport waste to the waste deposits using their own transportation services.

Sighisoara Municipality benefits from the existence of an ecological landfill for depositing of household waste and selective waste collection is attempted. Non-hazardous waste, especially that coming from construction and demolitions, is collected and deposited separately in the landfill located on the dead arm of the river Tarnava Mare, in the area of Cornesti St.

The ecologic landfill is located in the area of the old waste deposit on the DN14 road towards Medias, and the conditions imposed by law regarding waste depositing are respected in terms of its location and construction. It has a capacity of 345,000m³, and the amount of annual waste depositing is set at 40,000m³, ensuring a depositing capacity of twenty years (starting in 1998 when the landfill was established).

Existing data indicates that approx. 2,500m³ of household waste is deposited annually, implying a longer usage period for the landfill than originally predicted. Further minimisation of the amount of waste deposited was achieved by organising a system of paper, glass, and PET selection at the landfill entrance. In order to assist the population and create a clean community, S.C.Schuster Ecosal S.R.L., with the coordination of city hall, carries out collection and transport activities for household waste from the population, including tenants' associations, and non-household waste, especially vegetal waste.

In areas surrounding apartment buildings there exist platforms for the first stage of collection of household waste. During the calendar year of 2003, these platforms will be complemented by special containers, dedicated to selective waste collection, especially paper, glass, and PET.

The collection and delivery of iron-containing and non-iron containing waste to an organisation specialised in this field (REMAT) represents an important source of income for the members of this organisation within the municipality.

At the same time, some problems have been detected. These include uncontrolled waste deposits, especially from construction sites, thus invoking the tax on the depositing of waste in authorised areas, necessary to finance works related to the landfill.

There is no existing deposit for hazardous waste, and there is no adequate method for neutralisation of active waste in accordance with the law due to the inexistence of an appropriate installation for this purpose. This affects the state of public health.

For depositing of waste from veterinary activities a dry well has been established in the area surrounding the ecological landfill. This conforms to legal requirements and is in the process of being authorised.

With regard to waste for which there is no clear legal method of disposal (batteries, used oils etc.) the previous rules are followed.

With regard to waste produced by factories processing of wood and production of textiles, a limit has been set regarding depositing and excess is returned to the producer or sent to units specialised in their recycling.

I.3. ECONOMY

I.3.1. Tertiary Sector, Municipal Infrastructure and Urban Development

I.3.1.1. Transport

a) Urban Transport for Passengers: is operated by S.C. Thermal Water Transport S.A. Sighisoara. This organisation possesses 14 busses (of which 6 are articulated) and 5 minibuses.

The acquisition of minibuses was determined by a reduction in the number of conventional trips (see table) and the positive effects (economic and environmental) of the reduced consumption of fuel (15 l/100 km for minibuses, as compared to 32-35 l/100 km for busses).

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002
Passengers	3,399,170	3,344,898	2,813,600	2,437,746

b) Inter-city passenger transport: is operated by S.C. Cambus S.A., which possesses 19 busses and ensures the connection with urban and rural

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communities in the surrounding area and provides 14 routes.

c) Railway Transport:

Sighisoara Municipality is traversed by the electric rail route Bucuresti-Brasov-Cluj Napoca-Oradea, and also has similar rail links with the town of Odorheiu Secuiesc by means of a simple, non-electric railroad.

One train station and one CFR ticketing agency serve the population of the city. The railway traverses the city, and thus contributes to heavier traffic, both automotive and pedestrian, in the Tarnava neighbourhood.

I.3.1.2. Communications and Local Mass-Media

a) Telephones-Landlines and Mobiles: municipal telephone landlines are managed by ROMTELECOM S.A. through its local telephone communication office. By 31/12/2002, the number of subscriptions to ROMTELECOM S.A. services was 8,791. The following mobile phone networks operate in the municipality:

- Mobifon CONNEX GSM 900MHz
- Mobilrom ORANGE GSM 900MHz
- Cosmorom COSMOROM GSM 900MHz.

b) Internet Networks:

Access to the internet is managed by:

- SC Elsig Computers SRL – dial-up connections, rented internet lines, fibre optics, 33,600 Kbps
- SC Teleson SRL – TV cable, rented cables, 3 Mbps

c) Audio – Visual Mass Media:

Sighisoara Municipality has:

- One cable television station - "TELESON"
- Two radio stations - RADIOSON, which broadcasts on 89.5 and 107.9MHz, and Radio MIX FM, on 107.3MHz, both of which broadcast 24 hours a day.

I.3.1.3. Banking System

Sighisoara has five banks: BCR, BRD, RAIFFEISEN BANK, CEC and the Carpathian Bank. Procedures related to giving credit to legal representatives of organisations and individual persons changed in 2003

compared in terms of the methods of giving credit and applying smaller interest rates.

Banks offer credit in Romanian Lei, as well as foreign currency. Credit is given to individuals for varying purposes: purchasing of goods, automobiles, the purchasing of homes etc.

Bank	No. of employees	No. of women	No. of men	Post-secondary studies	Secondary studies
BCR	33	27	6	60%	40%
CEC	28	24	4	10%	90%
Carpathian	17	10	7	40%	60%
BRD	7	6	1	100%	0
Raiffeisen	9	7	2	30%	70%

I.3.1.4. Municipal Infrastructure and Development

The street network of the municipality has a total of 120 streets with a combined length of 73.3 km.

Depending on the type of material used for the street surface, streets are classified as follows:

Type of material	Length (km)
asphalt	21.871
concrete	14.932
Cobblestones (cubic or river stones)	29.633
macadam	6.648

Sighisoara Municipality is traversed for a distance of 7.1km by the European Road E60 Bucharest–Brasov–Tg. Mures–Cluj Napoca–Oradea–Budapest. It is also traversed by the National Road DN13 Brasov-Sighisoara-Medias–Sibiu and by the County Road Sighisoara-Agnita-Fagaras–Sibiu (DJ106). The width of the street varies between 4m and 14m.

At the end of 2002, the municipal infrastructure contained the following:

- 80.6km of drinking water distribution networks, with diameters varying between 50 and 600mm
- 68.3km of sewage networks (of which 27.4km are household sewers, 17.2km rainwater sewers, and 23.7km combined)
- pipes for the distribution of natural gas
- 11 km of thermal canal

The population benefiting from the drinking water of the centralised system represents 98% of the total city population. In 2002, the average drinking water consumption per month for the city was 217,487m³.

For tenants' associations the measurements are 100% accurate; for individual household users (individual homes) they are 95% accurate.

Some streets of the municipality, although connected to the drinking water supply, do not have access to the sewage network. This results in the some disposal waste water in the ground or through surface drains, being of negative impact on the environment as well as public health.

1.3.1.5. Apartment Buildings Intended for Tenants

The total number buildings intended for tenant occupation in Sighisoara municipality is 5,561, of which 12,273 are apartments and 11,342 are individual houses. The surface area of living space in Sighisoara is of 485,475 m². The ratio of private households and state-owned housing to city population in 1992 was worse than in 2002 - there being 8,400 homes in 1992 compared to 11,227 in 2002. Over the last decade, a large portion of the population living in state-owned housing was offered the opportunity to buy according to existing legislation, excepting housing of a special status (historical

monuments): there were 3,889 households in 1992, while only 953 in 2002.

Due to the existence of diversified religious cults, some of which were established after 1989, there were 34 households belonging to cults in 2002, as compared to 29 in 1992.

The buildings are made of concrete, BCA, prefabricated materials (in the new area of the city), brick, and stone (in the area of the "old city").

Of the total number of buildings destined for housing, on 31/05/2003 there were 336 houses and 43 apartments in the property of the state, and of these, 78 buildings are declared as historical monuments.

1.3.1.6. Green Areas, Sports Grounds, Playgrounds

Structured green areas belong to different categories: parks, green areas related to institutions and residential areas, playgrounds, and sports grounds.

Although Sighisoara has extensive green areas, the structured and managed portion of these areas does not exceed 1.7ha, which is less than 1m² per inhabitant.

This is compensated for by the large forested areas surrounding the city: 3,702ha of forest in the administrative area, of which 2,880ha belong to the local council.

ANALYSIS OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengths	Weaknesses
Direct access to the national road network for automotive transport (E60, DN13).	Lack of a city ring road.
Railway route Bucuresti-Brasov-Cluj-Napoca-Oradea.	Relatively low street network quality.
Upgraded telecommunications equipment for both landlines and mobile telephones.	Railway route Bucuresti-Brasov-Cluj Napoca-Oradea passes through residential neighbourhoods of the city.
Well developed natural gas distribution network.	Old network for distribution of drinking water in the "Old City" area.
High degree of coverage of the drinking water distribution system.	Lack of sewage system network on some streets that are connected to the drinking water distribution system.
Development of the water treatment plant through the use of a new decanter.	Water treatment plant in need of additional improvements.
Existence of programmes and projects related to the modernisation of the drinking water distribution system.	Combined sewage system in some areas of the city.
Satisfactory length of street network.	

I.3.2. Energy

Municipal *electric energy* is supplied by S.C. ELECTRICA S.A., a company which manages energy distribution on a national level.

Thermal Energy is supplied by S.C. ATT S.A. Sighisoara has 14 thermal power stations, of which 3 have already been closed, and another is scheduled for closing on 01/10/2003.

Until now, of the total number of apartments (6,312 apartments) with centralised heating only 54% are still connected to the network (3,420 apartments). Disconnection is continuing making it hard to estimate the number of apartments that still be connected to the network for the winter 2003–2004.

Hot water consumption is measured using debit-measuring meters (proportion 100%), and heating is measured with energy meters (proportion of 90% but before the beginning of the cold season this should be 100%).

All thermal heating plants use methane for fuel, having combustion a percentage of 75%-90% (not total for the power plant). Three of the plants were upgraded in the past 5 years, while the rest are suffering from advanced physical deterioration and age.

Of the 10.75km of distribution network, 30% has been replaced, and the rest is in a satisfactory condition.

Sighisoara Municipality has 78.6km of methane gas distribution network, divided into three categories of pressure: medium, reduced, and low.

Distribution of pipes for methane gas distribution by age:

- 20% over 40 years of age
- 35% 20–40 years of age
- 25% 10–20 years of age
- 20% under 10 years of age

There are 12,214 consumers, of which 11,688 are individual subscribers and 526 are economic agents. Daily consumption varies between 80,000 and 300,000m³/day, depending on season and outside temperature.

I.3.3. Labour Force

Statistics provided by the Agency for the Satisfaction of Labour Force for Mures County for the period 2000–2001 contain the following significant indicators for Sighisoara Municipality:

	2000	2001
Total of employees – average	13,859	14,066
Average no. of employees in agriculture	307	74
Average no. of employees in industry - total	8,791	9,093
Average no. of employees in processing industry	8,277	8,577
Average no. of employees in gas, water, electric and thermal energy sector	514	516
Average no. of employees in construction	354	275
Average no. of employees in commerce	1,089	1,538
Average no. of employees in transportation, storage, postal, communications	774	695
Average no. of employees in banking/financial activities and insurance	123	109
Average no. of employees in public administration	138	118

Active and Inactive Population in 2002:

Total employed:	13,651	42.25%, of which:
Men	6,804	49.84% of employed
Women	6,847	50.16% of employed
Total unemployed:	18,653	57.75%, of which:
Men	7,779	41.70% of unemployed
Women	10,874	48.30% of unemployed.
Unemployment Rate:	6.5%, of which:	
	9.2% men and	
	3.7% women.	

The number of unemployed in April 2003 was 400.

Of note:

- Approx. 48% of the total employed in industry can be found in the “representative” companies of the city.

- Approx. 25% of the total employed in industry is active in the textile industry, which explains the low unemployment rate for women.

Reduction or even abolishment of activities in the *lohn* system (present in the confectionery industry), is inevitable and should be reflected upon.

I.3.4. Economic Situation

I.3.4.1. Industry

In 1990, economic reform was started in the absence of new ideas, concepts and especially specialists in the field. The restructuring of enterprises with a majority of state capital is necessary in any market economy, not only for economies in transition to the market model. This restructuring took place based on insufficiently structured strategies, which were established by the corresponding ministries and coordinated by the State Ownership Fund in collaboration with commercial entities soliciting the necessary funds.

However, the results obtained were far from those expected. This was probably because privatisation took place using the MEBO method (predominant in the early 1990s and justified by the lack of internal capital), or through rapid privatisation, in which the task of restructuring fell to the owners (something which only became apparent after 1997).

Restructuring programmes were either minimally coordinated or not coordinated at all with programmes

for local development, and this was discouraging to the leadership of many entities in their quest to procure funding. At the end of the 1980s, Sighisoara Municipality enjoyed a varied industrial profile, including the textile, confectionery and automotive industries, metalworking, glass and ceramics, housekeeping articles, food products, construction materials, wood processing, and the fur and shoe industry.

The majority of businesses were from light industry, especially textiles (65% of the value of Sighisoara products), something rooted in local tradition (old weavers' and tailors' guilds) as well being influenced by the abundance of raw materials for ceramic products.

The liberation of prices for raw materials and energy, the lack of funds for upgrading technology and modernising processing methods that would ensure market presence, efficiency and productivity, and the inability to face competition - all were the cause of a drastic decrease in industrial activity and even in the disappearance of certain representative businesses in local industry.

The textile industry was most affected. The importing of fabrics from Asian markets at local prices, the low quality of Romanian wool, and the lack of suitable equipment (especially for finishing) - all proved to be insurmountable obstacles.

The cotton and silk weaving mills and the fabric factory ceased their activities. The following table contains data pertaining to companies with a large number of employees, their turnover, and growth in percentages:

Name of Enterprise	No. of Employees	Turnover 2002		Turnover 2001–2002 increase (%)
		Thousand lei	Of which export (%)	
SC "VES" SA	850	299,800,000	33.5	142
SC "Stimet" SA	620	280,000,000	20	116
SC "Siceram" SA	532	157,900,000	21	162.4
SC "Târnava" SA	1337	141,000,000	35	123
SC "Nicovala" SA	200	50,000,000	40	131
SC "Parat – RO" SA	525	-	100	283
SC "Transtex"	675	63,000,000	90	130
SC "CESIRO" SA	1590	436,000,000	85	25
SC "Hochland Romania" SRL	286	636,190,213	-	-

These statistics demonstrate a significant growth in economic performance (2002 as compared to 2001), a tendency which is expected to continue for the year 2003.

Taking into consideration Romania's pending accession to the European Union, future investments in terms of implementation of ecologically clean technologies need to be given priority for the majority of businesses in Sighisoara.

1.3.4.2. Small and Medium Enterprises

The Local Council for Small and Medium Enterprises (LCSME) has been created at a municipal level. It is an owner's association with legal representative person status, including 52 enterprises with statute of members and associate members.

Their structure, according to number of employees, is as follows:

Familial associations	4
Micro-enterprises	20
Small enterprises	24
Medium enterprises	4

And in terms of area of activity:

Commerce	18
Services	13
Tourism	8
Production	7
Agriculture	6

In terms of origin of capital, Romanian enterprises represent the majority, with only 5 enterprises being created with foreign capital.

Of note is the low number of enterprises with activities in the productive sector – an observation also valid for enterprises with foreign funding.

SWOT ANALYSIS (INDUSTRY)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Old traditions in certain industrial branches (textile, confectionery, ceramics).</p> <p>Existence of natural resources (ceramic industry).</p> <p>Existence of a well-developed sector for the production of confectioneries.</p> <p>Relatively low unemployment rate in comparison with the rest of the area.</p> <p>High potential for tourism, especially in terms of architectural history.</p> <p>Relatively well developed financial-banking network.</p> <p>Appearance of new foreign investors on the economic scene, with a significant impact upon the city's economy.</p> <p>Developed technical city networks (water, sewage, natural gases, electric energy).</p> <p>Good dynamic of economic indicators (turnover) for representative enterprises, including those relevant to exports.</p> <p>Elaboration of Local Agenda 21 (Local Strategy for Sustainable Development, Action Plan, Project Portfolio).</p> <p>Organised framework for SMEs in the city – LCSME Sighisoara.</p>	<p>Old equipment and production technology.</p> <p>Slow adaptation of businesses in the textile industry to the modifications in market structures.</p> <p>Weak capitalisation of commercial enterprises.</p> <p>Difficult access to credit with low interest rates - an obstacle in the implementation of competitive technologies.</p> <p>Weak capitalisation of SMEs.</p> <p>Insufficient promotion of tourism, given the existing potential.</p> <p>Relatively low number of SMEs with productive activities.</p> <p>Low representation of economic activities in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Low investment in areas with a large added value: production, high technologies.</p> <p>Local austerity budget.</p> <p>Lack of a responsible framework to sustain economic activities – inexistence of teaching and consulting services.</p>

Opportunities	Risks
<p>Opportunity to use public duty tools (loans and municipal obligations) as sources for the local budget.</p> <p>Opportunity to access certain sources of the local budget (projects, governmental sources, private sources, special taxes).</p> <p>Existence of an Urban Master Plan – instrument for urban development.</p> <p>Location in an area with high tourist potential.</p> <p>Short distance to airports (60km from Tg. Mureş, 90km from Sibiu).</p>	<p>Fragility of the “lohn” system.</p> <p>Economic decline of certain traditional activities (textile industry, fabrics).</p> <p>Drastic reduction in resources for the financing of major investment objectives.</p> <p>Legal instability in the economic field.</p> <p>Lack of budget resources.</p> <p>Lack of correlation of financial responsibilities transmitted with relevant budget resources.</p>

I.3.4.3. Agriculture

The agricultural surface of the municipality is 11.347ha, of which:

SPECIFICATION	SURFACE
Inside the city	1,172ha
Outside the city	10,175ha

Structure of the agricultural surface in terms of use:

Use	Inside the city (ha)	Outside the city (ha)
Arable	4	1535
Pastures	20	1656
Hay fields	147	1241
Vineyards + orchards	2	293
Forests	-	370
Bushes	-	278
Water + reed	30	107
Unproductive	5	156
Roads	74	225
Constructions	241	362
Green Areas	13	-

Vegetal production:

Cultivation	Surface (ha)
Wheat	25
Spring wheat	10

Barley	40
Oat	15
Potatoes	100
Sugar Beet	5
Stealing Beet	7
Corn	666
Vegetables	54
Cultivation	Surface (ha)

Animal breeding (Agricultural census, 2002):

Species	Number
Bovine	986
Sheep	5,095
Goats	351
Pigs	2,479
Birds	22,280
Horses	202
Bee Families	1,879

There has been a dramatic decline in traditional crops in the area in terms of hops crops, grape vines, fruit bearing trees and shrubs, and vegetable crops.

The production, acquisition, and manufacture of semi-processed products from medicinal plants was important economically before 1989, when exports reached over 1.5 million USD per year and there was a labour force of 620 persons.

SWOT ANALYSIS (AGRICULTURE)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Large surface of agricultural land and forested areas. Private ownership of land.</p> <p>Favourable micro-climate for most agricultural crops.</p> <p>Commencement of ecologically-friendly agricultural practices in the area (medicinal plants, roses).</p> <p>Existence of a competitive processing unit – HOCHLAND.</p>	<p>Dramatic decrease in hops crops, grape vines, fruit bearing trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Subsistent agricultural practices.</p> <p>A part of the agricultural fund is poorly used, or not used.</p> <p>Inexistence of a bulk market for agricultural products.</p>
Opportunities	Risks
<p>Appreciation of the agricultural potential, leading towards sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>Coordination of bordering rural area for the maintenance of the scenery and of the specific rural aspects.</p> <p>Implementation of an organic agricultural centre that would increase interest in organic agriculture in the entire region.</p> <p>Ecotourism – increasing the economic efficiency of organic agriculture.</p>	<p>Taking over of large areas by trusts, the performance of intensive and industrial agricultural practices.</p> <p>Lack of appreciation of the agricultural potential of the city.</p>

I.4. SOCIAL CAPITAL IN SIGHISOARA

I.4.1. Population

At the time of the 2002 census, Sighisoara Municipality had a population of 32,304, of which 15,273 or 47.28% were men, and 17,031 or 52.72% were women.

Over the past 10 years the population has decreased constantly. In the 1992 census the population was 35,939, while in 2002 there were only 32,304 inhabitants. This represents a difference of 3,635, or a decrease of 10.1% over ten years.

Year	1990		2001	
	Total no.	No. per 1000 inhabitants	Total no.	No. per 1000 inhabitants
Births	510	13.2	326	9
Deaths	314	8.13	317	8.76
Death before 1 year	4	0.10	7	0.19

While the number of births decreased by 36.8% as compared to 1990, the number of deaths in 2001 increased by 0.955% as compared to 1990.

At the same time, infant mortality rates displayed an increasing tendency, rising by 0.09 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2001, as compared to 1990.

A study of demographic evolution by ethnicity illustrates emigration of the population, representing another factor which led to the decrease of the overall population of Sighisoara.

Year	1992	% 1992	2002	% 2002
Total population	35,939	-	32,304	-
Romanian	26,290	73.15	24,570	76.5
Hungarian	7,057	19.63	5,932	18.22
German	1,416	3.94	587	1.61
Rroma	1,048	2.91	1,135	3.41
Other	128	0.35	78	0.26

Proportional variations in nationalities can be observed. The German population is heading for extinction due to old age and emigration. At the same time, there is a decrease in the Hungarian population, while the percentage of Rroma population is increasing, and the Romanian population holds the majority.

Although heterogeneous from an ethnic point of view, the general atmosphere and interaction within the Sighisoara community is peaceful and lacking in interethnic tensions.

I.4.2. Religious Life

For centuries, Romanians, Saxons, Hungarians, Jews, Rroma, and other minorities have lived together in Sighisoara. This led to the development of a culturally varied religious life. With the passage of time, religious life has intensified and is today represented by over 15 religious cults.

I.4.3. Rroma Community

In the last ten years, the Rroma community has increased constantly from 2.91% to 3.51% of the population. The majority of the Rroma population are registered unemployed, beneficiaries of social welfare (approximately 85%), free meals at the cafeteria (approximately 50%) and other facilities and rights, in accordance with current laws.

Certain aspects of the traditional Rroma way of life are responsible for the current unfavourable situation of the Rroma community, and even help in perpetuating or aggravating this situation. Due to poverty and the habits of the Rroma ethnicity, education levels among youth and older generations are low. However, the Rroma community is represented through two organisations, which help the Rroma to obtain facilities from the local authorities and from social foundations working in the domain of helping underprivileged persons.

In terms of cultural life, the Rroma are represented at the minority festival Pro-Etnica.

I.4.4. Creation of Human Resources

In any society, the structure of needs and level of aspiration depend on the possibilities of satisfaction; thus the social ideal is a horizon that we are headed for, but which, nonetheless, remains far away.

The long state of transition does not facilitate early achievement of the social ideal; on the contrary, it accentuates poverty and the decline in the way of life. Sighisoara Municipality does not represent an exception in this, with the city's economy falling within the national norms of unemployment and inactive population.

The lack of available jobs in combination with the general poverty and considerable influx of tourists to Sighisoara has led to the spread of the phenomena of general offences, juvenile delinquency, begging, and prostitution on all levels, even among teenage girls. These practices affect the general state of social health of the population.

I.4.5. State of Public Health

The process of aging in the population is characterised by the reduction in the number of children (from 510 in 1992, to 326 in 2001). Specific mortality rates have increased in 2002, reaching 11.91 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants (as compared to 10.72 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2001). Infant mortality rose to 29.60 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2002 (as compared to 20.51 per 1,000 inhabitants in 2001).

The number of disabled persons has increased, such that by the end of 2002 there were 266 persons with medical certificates, as follows:

- First degree handicap (severe)
 - 42 adults (29 women, 13 men);
 - 48 minors (14 girls, 34 boys);
- Second degree handicap (accentuated)
 - 25 adults (12 women, 13 men);
 - 15 minors (5 girls, 10 boys);
- Third degree handicap (medium)
 - 10 adults (6 women, 4 men);
 - 18 minors (10 girls, 8 boys);
- No category
 - 98 adults (63 women, 35 men);
 - 10 minors (6 girls, 4 boys).

Diseases which predominate among disabled persons fall into the following categories: neuropsychology, ophthalmology, endocrinology (metabolism), and infectious (especially among minors, AIDS), thereby emphasising that levels of living and sanitary education are low.

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I.4.6. Healthcare

Medical assistance is offered by the public sector by the Municipal Hospital, one clinic, two pharmacies, four small clinics, and by the private sector by five pharmacies, 23 medical offices, 10 dental practices, and four laboratories for dental technology.

This yields the following ratios: 436 inhabitants to one medical doctor; 5,384 inhabitants to one dentist; 141 inhabitants to one nurse. Per 1,000 inhabitants the Municipal Hospital provides 4.38 hospital beds. In recent years, 10 medical specialists of various fields have moved to Sighisoara, and new equipment has been purchased for different departments. The laboratory equipment, however, is in need of improvement.

The ambulance station which functions in Sighisoara belongs to the County Ambulance Service and the SMURD Centre for rescue.

I.4.7. Social Assistance

Social assistance activities are carried out in accordance with regulations by:

- Providing financial aid from the local budget according to law no. 416/2001, the law of minimum guaranteed income: approximately 350 applications were made during 2002, and financial aid was given in a total value of 1,626,347,000 lei;
- Providing financial aid for the heating of housing (thermal energy, natural gas, wood) – 1,548,275,000 lei for a total of approximately 4,800 requests from persons benefiting from social assistance and with reduced incomes (Emergency Ordinance No. 5/2003); free distribution of powdered milk for children under one year of age, over 2,000 kg. (Law no. 321/2001);
- Providing one free meal, at four cafeterias for social aid, for 137 persons monthly (Law no. 108/1998);
- Existence of 450 housing requests from the state fund, which represents 73 homes (of which 64 were built through ANL) (Law 114/1996 and H.G. no. 962/2001); caring instruction for minors lacking adult guardians,

or for persons under various prohibitions (7 persons);

- Representation of minors and elderly who cannot express their own interests;
- Organisation of files and applications for the placing in care homes and assistance of 18 senior citizens;
- surveys on the rights of disabled persons (236 requests in the year 2002), entrusting of minors to one of the parents (85 cases), distribution of supplementary allowance; surveys on minors that need institutionalising and minor offenders, but who are not responsible under the penal code (23 cases).

I.4.8. Caring and Assistance Centres

Currently there exists a centre for care and assistance where 50 persons declared to have a handicap are institutionalised (47 of which are elderly, the remaining 3 are under 50 years of age), and a placement centre where 67 children are institutionalised, of which one is a university student, one pre-schooler, and 65 primary and secondary school students.

I.4.9. Civil Society

At a municipal level, Sighisoara illustrates the collaboration between the local administration and various representatives of civil society, the latter of which are involved in the decision-making process pertaining to the solving of certain public issues. There are 32 registered NGOs: 10 cultural, 6 sports related, 4 social, 3 humanitarian, 3 religious, 3 professional, 1 human rights, 1 group issues, 1 environmental, and 1 youth. There are also 242 tenants and owners associations.

I.4.10. Formal and Informal Education

The period of transition through which Romania has been passing in recent years has been the cause of numerous transformations at a societal level and a deep change in collective mentality. This could not be

realised without an improvement in the mass educational system.

Sighisoara currently has 27 educational units, including 11 kindergartens, 11 primary schools, 4 high schools of which two have professional schools and training programmes affiliated to a children's club.

Over the last three years, the school-aged population in the municipality was distributed as in the following table:

Students	2000	2001	2002
Total number of students, of which:	7,518	7,387	7,560
- Pre-school	1,056	1,105	1,081
- Primary	4,292	3,840	3,824
- High School	1,579	1,806	1,920
- professional + trainees	591	636	735

The pre-school educational system was the most open to the idea of privatisation. As a result, two private kindergartens opened in the city: "Sophie's Kindergarten," which teaches in English, and "Pinocchio," which teaches in both English and German. Both kindergartens are recognised by the M.E.C. and in this educational year 74 children were registered at the two kindergartens.

Currently, two kindergartens have groups with German language programmes, and four kindergartens have groups with Hungarian language programmes.

Teaching in minority languages is also practiced in grades 5-8. Thus, two public schools offer classes in Hungarian, and German can be studied in a high school which teaching grades 1-12.

Vocational education is managed by the Music School in classes 1-8, and the following instruments and subjects are studied: piano, violin, viola, percussion, and sports classes from two primary schools. In addition, pupils in primary education have the possibility to take courses in the following areas through the Children's Club: computer science, logic, tapestry, carting, medieval theatre, modern dance, English culture and civilisation. They can also practice competitive sports through the local Sports Club.

High school and professional education allows for the continuation of studies in various subjects: sciences,

humanities, or specialised areas. The theoretical high schools offer classes in Hungarian and German. Vocational high schools and professional high schools have diversified their curricula, creating new courses of study in accordance with the city's new economic orientation: tourism, accounting, food related chemistry, while still retaining the classic curricula: ceramics, confections, electro-technical studies, which ensures the qualifications necessary for local industry.

Educational Units	2000	2001	2002
Total educational units, including:	30	27	26
- kindergartens	13	11	11
- primary schools	13	12	11
- high schools	4	4	4

For high school alumni wishing to continue their studies in the city there are post-secondary institutions in the economic and medical fields and branches of universities such as the Academy of the Arts – Cluj, A.I.S.T.E.D.A. University – Bucharest, Lucian Blaga University – Sibiu, or the Technical University – Cluj.

In recent years, funds allocated to the maintenance of educational units did not meet requirements. This caused the following damage:

- Buildings (damage to the mortar, wall painting, waterproofing);
- Utilities (toilets, closets, heat distribution, lighting);
- Unsatisfactory furnishing (desks not in suited to different age groups);
- Educational materials (weak teaching and educational manuals and equipment: overhead projector, video projector, maps, laboratory equipment), producing disturbances to educational activity and leading to collective diseases (epidemics) and individual diseases (myopia, bad posture) among students.

The school medical offices are insufficiently equipped and lack sanitary materials and medications. This leads to their poor performance.

Teachers, especially those in primary education, find it necessary to use mandatory diagnostics for pre-schoolers to diagnose children with deficiencies. Not all students can be integrated in a collective educational environment, and therefore the formation of special classes at a city level would be beneficial.

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I.4.11. Culture

Sighisoara has old cultural and multiethnic traditions that have been passed from generation to generation. Between the two World Wars there existed folk theatres (Romanian, German, and Hungarian) and a symphonic orchestra; these institutions survived until after the Second World War.

I.4.12. Cultural Institutions

The Cultural House contains two auditoriums; the “Mihai Eminescu” auditorium, with a capacity of 500 seats, and the “Ciprian Porumbescu” auditorium (formerly known as Sander), which has a capacity of 300 seats and also houses the headquarters. Sander house also has a music hall with 100 seats. Within the Cultural House, the folklore ensemble “Cetatea” performs its activities, together with the Children’s Folklore Ensemble. For choral music there is the “Armonia” chorus and the Chamber Choir and, on the municipal level, there is the Orthodox Church Choir. The marching band, the modern dance company and the contemporary music orchestra, complete the set of artistic companies with permanent activities. The Popular University of the Cultural House is offering six courses for the year 2003 and has 244 participants.

The History Museum, established in 1899 in the Clock Tower, has two additional locations: the medieval Armoury and Torture Chamber. These attracted more than 61,000 visitors in 2001, and over 107,000 in 2002, representing an increase of 76%. The museum has a collection of 14,437 exhibition pieces from different fields and time periods.

The Municipal Library, “Zaharia Boiu,” has a collection of over 152,000 volumes in its two sections - one adults, one for children. It also boasts an extremely valuable antique book collection of 30,000 volumes within the documentary section. In 2002, the library was visited by 10,000 readers.

The Educational Interethnic Centre for Youth (I.B.Z.) has already been active for 3 years as a project implemented through the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe and financed by the German Government through the Institute for External Cultural Relations, Stuttgart. The centre consists of a library for minorities, a Culture Pub, and a “basement for youth,”

where cultural programmes take place every Friday and Saturday. There also is a series of extracurricular courses and workshops. International summer camps are organised on a regular basis, as are archaeological camps, ethnography camps, and amateur art and theatre camps.

The Children and Students’ Club is the meeting place for over 1,000 students from primary schools, who conduct their activities within seven technical and artistic circles. Part of this club, the theatre group “Cameleon” has won several national awards, and the modern dance troupe, “Kids,” was the winner of several contests throughout the country.

I.4.13. Festivals

In Sighisoara, a series of festivals with strong national and international resonance take place throughout the year.

The Medieval Art Festival, which usually takes place at the end of July, is organised by the Sighisoara Foundation for Medieval Art, and is now in its thirteenth exhibition year. The festival aims to be a presentation of Sighisoara as it was in the Middle Ages, and the festival features music concerts, and medieval dance and theatre, in which artists from throughout the country and abroad are invited to participate.

The International Academic Music and Summer Music Course Festival organised in the first ten days of August (1–10 August) by the “Elan” foundation of Bucharest, the “Pro Helvetia” foundation, “Elan – Casa Albert” foundation of Sighisoara, and by Sighisoara City Hall. This festival consists of concerts by Romanian and foreign artists, and courses that are attended by students from throughout the country as well as abroad. The festival is celebrating its ten year anniversary.

The ProEthnica Festival, Days for Ethnic Communities in Romania is in its third year and will take place as usual in the last week of August bringing on to one stage over 800 representatives of the 18 different ethnic communities represented in Romania. The ProEthnica Festival is organised by the Educational Interethnic Centre for Youth and represents an illustration of the interethnic cohabitation in this country.

The “Paul Schuller” Marching Band Festival takes place in September and is organised by the Cultural House. This year is the third year of the festival.

The Old Music Festival, organised by the Cultural House, takes place in December and is in its eighth year of existence.

The “Agora” Festival of Poetry and Criticism is in its tenth year and is organised by the Cultural House.

I.4.14. Sports

Sighisoara has a rich sporting tradition, especially in handball with “Voința Sighisoara” that has participated in the national handball championships since 1950.

Many of Sighisoara’s athletes belong to national teams. At present, the Sighisoara Handball Club is in Division A.

The School Sports Club prepares future athletes in handball, track and field, and football. The track and field team has had some exceptional results and won many national championship titles.

Judo is practiced in Sighisoara and good results are obtained at a national level, including representation in the national finals.

Football is represented by F.C. Dealu Mare, which participates in Division D.

Other sports popular in Sighisoara include basketball, skiing, skating, tennis, boxing, and swimming; these sports, however, do not have official organisations and do not have a high quality base of materials.

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Strengths	Weaknesses
NGOs with strong activities, and good collaboration with the local administration; Professional teachers in schools; Increased rate of high school graduates following post-secondary education; Correlation between socio-economic demands and educational supply of schools, at secondary school level and post-secondary; Opening towards new educational methodologies; Friendly relations with cities from other countries; Co-existence of numerous religious cults; Music and poetry shows throughout the year in different localities.	Decrease in population; Ageing population; Decreased birth rate; Increased number of poor families; Educational materials and buildings and very bad condition; Lack of psycho-logopedical counseling in primary schools; Weak library collections for high school and university libraries; Opening towards new educational methodologies; Insufficient medical resources, and deteriorating medical buildings; Improper space and resources for maternity; Lack of cinemas; Poor resources for the Cultural House, including its deteriorated building; End of theatrical activity of the “Theatre in the Tower;” Insufficient information and participation levels on the part of the population with regard to cultural activities.
Opportunities	Risks
Co-existence of multicultural and religious space; High tourist potential may lead to an increased labour force and an increase in the level of general culture; The appreciation and continuity of the relations with the German community from the Diaspora in order to attract investors; Increased appreciation of tourism will lead to a decrease in the city’s poverty; The Social Solidarity Fund.	Violation of rights to peace and quiet by economic agents (light industry); Insufficient budgetary allocations for the social domain; Lack of perspective for the younger generations; Qualitative decrease in educational results; Insufficient stimulation for strong school performances.

I.5. FORTRESS, TOURISM, MONUMENTS

I.5.1. Introduction

The city's geographical location, at the intersection of important national roads (Brasov–Sighisoara-Tg. Mures-Cluj, Miercurea Ciuc–Odorhei–Sighisoara-Agnita–Sibiu, and Sighisoara–Medias–Sibiu) has led to the reinforcement of Sighisoara as an important commercial, craft producing, administrative, and cultural centre throughout the centuries. To this can be added the more recent importance of tourism attached to the city, taking into consideration not only the interest in the well preserved medieval fortress, but also the function of the city as a starting point for exploration of the surrounding area which has many extremely important tourism objectives (the fortified churches of Biertan and Viscri, both included in UNESCO national heritage, as well as the historical monuments of Saschiz, Archita, Roadeș, Apold, Cris, Malancrav, Dumbraveni, Medias and Seleus).

The city was fortunate during the industrial revolution in that most light industry was placed outside the perimeter of the old city, on the industrial platform. This is also where most of apartment buildings were built, which meant that the city's old centre was only minimally affected.

I.5.2. Architecture and Surroundings

The Sighisoara Citadel, "the most beautiful and best preserved city fortress in Transylvania," has over the years been called by various names, including "the Pearl of Transylvania," "Water Lilly of Transylvania", and "Transylvanian Nuremberg." Even today, Sighisoara is a genuine town-museum, offering the modern day visitor the chance to travel back in time, back to the medieval atmosphere of centuries past.

The history of the area where the city of Sighisoara is found has goes back several millennia before the founding of the city by the German colonists. The prehistoric location was on Turk's Hill (Wietenberg), located 3km north-west of the city, dating from the middle Bronze Age (1,800–1,300 BC), and this gave birth to the cultural name Sighisoara-Wietenberg.

Located on the superior platform of the same hill (Wietenberg Turk's Hill) the Dacian fortified location dates to the LaTene period (second century BC – second century AD), and was the strongest Dacian fortification on the middle stretch of the river Tarnava Mare. The Dacians, an Indo-European people related to the Thracians, lived in present day Romania two thousand years ago and achieved a level of civilisation comparable to that of the Ancient Germans. Transylvania belonged to the Dacian Province and is especially rich in roots of Roman culture. Romans built cities, erected military fortifications, and created a strong and strategic road network. Close to Sighisoara, on the Podomoale Plateau, the remains of a Roman military fortification (castrum) can still be found. This is where a cohort of the XIIIth legion was stationed, having its headquarters at Alba Iulia Apulum. The most difficult local historical period began with the departure of the Roman administration from Dacia. This was a period of migrations, which lasted nearly 1,000 years and being made up of 10 waves of migrating populations entering from the East. Of these, only the Hungarians eventually succeeded in occupying the whole of Transylvania, including it in the Hungarian Empire, which later became a part of the Austrian Empire until its fall in 1918.

In the twelfth century AD, Germans colonised the South and the East of Transylvania. Germans were arriving from a European region of superior civilisation and they built the principal medieval cities in Transylvania and Hungary, thereby raising the general level of civilisation of the area. The German colonists were brought by Geza the Second (1141–1161), from the lands of the Rhine, Mosel, and Flanders. They came "ad retinendam coronam" – for the protection of the crown – and they ruled over "fundus regius" – royal lands – being the beneficiaries of special rights and privileges. Other colonists were brought from the right side of the Rhine, from Saxony, a town which gave the name of Saxons to the Germans living in Transylvania.

Of the urban nuclei which appeared towards the end of the twelfth century, that located at the confluence of the rivers Saes and Tarnava Mare was to become one of the characteristic settlements of the Transylvanian Middle Ages: Sighisoara, the old Schässburg Fortress.

In 1999, Sighisoara was made a UNESCO world heritage site, being considered the best example in Transylvania (and Central Europe) of an old city of crafts and agriculture. This can be seen in the architectural forms of the old houses, with their

specific gates and interior courtyards. This characteristic does not contradict the development of guilds and commerce, which is illustrated in the components of the preserved citadel, where guild and gate towers can be found.

The many historical monuments in Sighisoara Municipality (including nearly all the buildings of the old city):

- The House with Shingles, 5 Bastion St. – seventeenth century
- Tin Workers' Tower, 11 Tin Workers' St. – seventeenth century
- Reform Church, 2 Gh. Lazăr St. – 1888
- Fortified entrance to the citadel, Tower St.
- Tanners' Tower – sixteenth-seventeenth century
- Clock Tower, Museum Square -- fourteenth century
- Butchers' Tower, Furriers St. – fourteenth century
- Wagner House, 7 Fortress Square – eighteenth century
- House with the Stag, School St. – seventeenth century
- Vlad Dracul House, Museum Square – sixteenth-seventeenth century
- Venetian House, Museum Square – seventeenth century
- City Hall, 7 Museum St. – 1887–1888
- Monastery Church, 8 Museum Square – twelfth century
- Blacksmiths' Tower, Museum Square – sixteenth-seventeenth century
- "Joseph Haltrich" High School, 6 Stairway St. – sixteenth-nineteenth century
- Church on the Hill, 10 Stairway St. – thirteenth-sixteenth century
- Rope Workers' Tower, Stairway St. – fourteenth-fifteenth century
- Covered wooden stairs, Stairway St. – 1656
- Lepers' Church, Șt. Cel Mare St. – sixteenth century
- Furriers' Tower, Fortress St. – sixteenth-seventeenth century
- Shoemakers' Tower, Fortress Wall St. – sixteenth-seventeenth century
- Tailors' Tower, Fortress Wall St. – fourteenth century

The buildings of Sighisoara can be divided into three categories:

- Military architecture;
- Ecclesiastical architecture;
- Civil architecture.

I.5.2.1. Military Architecture

The Sighisoara Fortress probably belonged from the very beginning to a fortification system. After the Tatar attack of 1241, which caused significant damage, the effort of fortification was recommenced. Thus, by the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the wall of the citadel had reached a length of 930m and had 14 towers and 5 defence bastions, from which 9 towers and 2 bastions still exist today along with significant portions of the wall. Due many years of abundant precipitation in the twentieth century, the fortress wall on the northern side at the Hillside Cemetery and between the Tailors' Tower and the Furriers' Tower has fallen partially and is in need of urgent repairs.

The Clock Tower is the principal point of entrance to the citadel. It gained its name due to its clock with figurines, which is unique in Romania and which constitutes a symbolic image for Sighisoara. The current structure of the tower dates back to 1677, when major repairs took place after the great fire of 1676. After more than a century, the tower was renovated and the shingles replaced with multi-coloured shingles and the emblem and inscription were painted.

At present, the Clock Tower is home to the city's History Museum, which includes exhibits on archaeology, pharmaceuticals, products and tools, furniture, and horology. Next to the Clock Tower is the Collection of Medieval Armoury, and the Torture Chamber is below the tower, now set up as an exhibit.

The Clock Tower underwent repairs between 1997–2003: the interior stairway was replaced, a temporary exhibition hall created, the conservation laboratory repaired, centralised heating introduced, the figurines and the mechanism of the clock restored, and the eaves and deteriorated portions of the roof replaced. The vault below the Clock Tower also underwent restoration work and a souvenir shop was built. Similarly, the entire brick structure of the Armoury was renovated. The Shoemakers' Tower was fully restored inside and is home to the Radioson radio station.

It is recommended that the entire exterior of the tower undergo restoration work in terms of the frescoes on the southern façade; renovation of the coloured roof

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tiles and the repainting of the dial of the clock in the tower, which is surrounded by a beautiful fresco, it also recommended.

The Tanners' Tower is located to the south-eastern side and is one of the oldest towers, a fact emphasised by its simple and efficient architecture. This would benefit from the functioning of the old passage which connects the "Archers' Gallery" to the Tanners' Tower. This would prevent the passage of tourists into the garden of the parochial house, and would contribute to the display of the defensive system as well as offer a beautiful view from the Tanners' Tower bastion.

The Tailors' Tower was originally designed for protection of the second access way into the fortress and it contains two vaulted corridors that are still functional today. It was restored after the great fire of 1676, and the roof was renovated in 2000. Its interior could serve as a museum or store for the presentation of authentic guild artefacts, related to tailors, weavers, etc. from the Tarnava area.

The Blacksmiths' Tower was built in 1631, its function being to consolidate the eastern side of the fortress wall and protect the Monastery Church. Its massive structure is reflected in the importance of the fortification, as well as by the economic power of the guild. From 1997, the Theatre in the Tower cooperated from here, and consolidation works took place which were unfinished due to lack of funds. It is recommended that this site be used again as a venue for theatre and exhibitions, at least during the summer months, in order to enrich Sighisoara's cultural life. These activities could also be carried out in winter if a centralised heating system were installed.

The Rope Workers' Tower represents one of the oldest refugee fortifications, built as far back as the thirteenth century, and is an important specimen of medieval military architecture. The tower is well preserved, as it is comes under Evangelical Parochial care.

The Butchers' Tower protects a small artillery bastion, meant to contribute to the defence of the north-western side of the fortress wall. Together with the Furriers' Tower, it protects the TORLE gate. The section of the fortress wall between these two towers represents the evolution over time of the fortification. Due to many years of heavy precipitation, the section of wall between the Butchers' Tower and the first entrance gate to the cemetery has fallen.

The Shoemakers' Tower was first mentioned in 1521, and built in order to protect an artillery bastion. Together, the tower and the bastion represent a crucial point of fortification for the north-eastern part of the fortress. In 1681, the tower was renovated in the Baroque style. Currently, the Radioson radio station broadcasts from this location and interior repairs were carried out for this new function of the tower.

A large part of the defensive system is regrettably in grave need of restoration and historical appreciation: the Furriers' Tower, Butchers' Tower, Tanners' Tower, Tailors' Tower, as well as the wall between the Tailors' and Furriers' Towers, which has fallen.

I.5.2.2. Ecclesiastical Architecture

In the Middle Ages, religious architecture was as important as military architecture. It is not by chance that the old emblem of the city of Sighisoara (currently located in the Museum from the Clock Tower) reads "Nomen Domini turris fortissimo" (God's name is the strongest tower).

Below is a list of the churches which currently stand inside the citadel and in the city beneath:

The first parochial was, according to legend, next to the Covered Stairway, where its ruins are still visible today; it dated no later than the fourteenth century.

Construction of the Monastery Church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and belonging to the Dominican Monastery (demolished at the end of the nineteenth century), started in the thirteenth century. During summer months it can be visited by tourists and the parochial administration intends to organise a small museum exhibiting religious objects found in the church's patrimony.

Church on the Hill

This is undoubtedly the most important architectural monument of the fortress. Its construction was placed under the patronage of St. Nicholas and began in 1345 and continued until 1525. The church encompasses the two older constructions on the upper plateau of the hill: a romantic chapel, and a quadrangular dungeon. The monument is valuable due to the presence of the only crypt in Transylvania, which is located below the choir and contains graves. The exterior of the church was partially painted and the interior fully covered in frescoes in 1876, when old frescoes were destroyed

with the understanding that they be replaced with exact replicas from the parchment, which has unfortunately disappeared. The Church on the Hill has had two major restorations: one in 1934, when a part of the old frescoes were uncovered, and one in 1991 and 1999, which was an integral restoration project carried out by the Messerschmitt Foundation in Munich and the Romanian Ministry of Culture. This left the structure as it appears today. Inside, rare works of religious sculpture and painting have been preserved; the gothic tabernacle made of stone and adorned with trefoil details, the sculpted pulpit from 1480, and an old holy water basin made of stone dating back to the fifteenth century. The altar dates to the fourteenth century, while the wooden pews, sculpted by J. Reychmut are from the sixteenth century. The funerary sculptures created by Elias Nicolaii inside the church are outstanding, as are the beautiful altars brought from the churches in Saes and Cund. Today, the church is a museum and contains altars and liturgical furniture from churches abandoned by their communities.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Built in 1894, after the demolition of the Franciscan Sisters' Monastery and the Locksmiths' Tower, the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church is located in the north-eastern section of the citadel, next to the inner wall. It was constructed using an eclectic style by the Sighisoara architect Letz and underwent interior repairs following the fire of 1983. The organ, built by Karl Einschenk in 1908, was bought from a nearby Saxon church.

Lepers' Church

Located in the "Lower City," at 34 Stefan Cel Mare Street, it is a gothic monument of the fifteenth century. Between 1647 and 1684 it was transformed into a small church serving as asylum for lepers. It contains a pulpit from which priests preached to the sick. It was restored in 1975-1976.

The Orthodox Church of Cornesti

Located at the entrance to the city when coming from Tg. Mures, dedicated to the Virgin's entrance in the church, this is the first Christian structure made of stone in this area. Built between 1788–1797 on the site of a former wooden church from the time of the priest Stefan Balas, from Sacele-Brasov, this is a neoclassical monument that answers the needs of the Orthodox religion. The bell has been preserved,

together with a liturgical veil and a golden chalice. The interior murals were painted by Veniamin Precup in 1983–1984. The current icon dates to 1997 and is sculpted from wood by Hutanu of Bacau, while the old icon was given as a gift to the monastery in Jacul Românesc. The church is well preserved, having had full restorations of its façade and roof.

Orthodox Cathedral

Located on the northern side of the Tarnava Mare River and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, it was built in 1934–1937 by the architect Dumitru Petrescu Gopes. The interior frescoes were created by A. Demian. The church has undergone much restoration in recent years and the frescoes were restored in 1980–1984.

Jewish Synagogue

The synagogue is located at 13 Tache Ionescu St. It is a building with a rectangular plan and two main access gates. The roof is pointed, and under the cornice there is a frieze with a Romanesque arcade. In the interior, the ceiling is painted to look like a starry sky, and the wooden furniture is original. The holy closet, made of wood, is found on the main façade and the eastern wall and has in its upper portion a triangular section illustrating the Star of David.

Reform Church

Built in 1888, this is a neo-romantic building with neo-gothic elements. Inside, the wooden pulpit stands out, with a baldachin decorated with original designs. The church is located on Gh. Lazar Street.

Unitarian Church

This church is located on the Railway Street, and dates to 1936–1938. The brick building has a rectangular plan with a semicircular axis and large tower at the western end, representing specific architectural elements of the medieval Saxon urban setting.

1.5.2.3. Civil Architecture

The majority of the 164 homes in the citadel, which are at least 300 years old, are considered to be historical monuments. Archaeological findings show that the old living quarters of the German colonisers of the seventeenth century were made of wood, having a rectangular plan, narrow façade facing the street,

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basement and main floor, and shingle roofs. The surface area was 35m².

The buildings existing today are made of brick. They were built gradually, especially after the great fire of 1676. The bourgeois homes in Sighisoara never had a monumental aspect, and a simplified form of the Baroque style was present here during the seventeenth century. However, towards the end of the eighteenth century, at the same time as Habsburg domination and the beginnings of capitalist economies, wealthier homes began to display a desire for higher levels of comfort, and this is represented in the facades. Therefore, homes began to appear which illustrate the decorations of late Baroque, Venetian gothic, and Early Neo-classicism, giving the local architecture a picturesque and enchanting air.

The Fortress Square, with its rectangular plan, was formerly inhabited by the city's noble families. It has undergone numerous transformations over the years. The House with the Stag has best preserved its original form, receiving its name from the stag appended to the building's corner. It is a building specific to the Transylvanian Renaissance, dating approximately to the seventeenth century. Between 1988 and 2001, significant preservation and restoration work took place. The work was originally begun by the Ministry of Culture, and then continued by the Messerschmitt Restoration Foundation. It is a highly functional building, containing a pension, a hotel, and the Romanian-German Cultural Centre: exhibition space, conference room, etc. Since the room with the fresco is not completely restored, it is hoped that a small museum will be created when work on restoration of the frescos is completed.

House on the Rock

Located at 8 Fortress Square, this house was built following the great fire of 1676, and was restored in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and again in 1999–2000 by the Veritas Foundation. It currently houses a cultural centre, including a sweet-shop, internet café, and foreign languages and computer familiarity courses.

The House with Shingles (Ewert)

This is a specific house for handicraft workers, and today serves as home to the Educational Interethnic Centre for Youth. The building underwent several repairs in 1912 and 2000–2003. It is located a 6 Bastion Street. The open gallery is decorated with a

wooden banister and a frieze with dentils, uniquely preserved in Sighisoara. This, together with the cellars and large windows on the upper floors, indicates that it is one of the oldest houses. The educational centre has a conference room and internet café, and various organisations operate there: dance, ceramics, theatre, and more recently, a youth hostel.

Venetian House

Located in the Museum Square, this house was named after the stone arcades framing the windows, imitating the Venetian gothic style. Currently, the building is home to the German forum and an assistance centre for the elderly. The house has had complete interior renovation (including the cellars), which in the future may serve as a food store.

Vlad Dracul House

Located at 1 Tanners' Street, the building is known as the old Paullini house, and it appears to be the oldest stone structure in the citadel based on the semi-cylindrical vault created from river stones on the main floor of the building. Between 1950 and 1974 it served as the Old People's Home, and since 1976 it has been a restaurant after much restoration.

Sighisoara Hotel Complex

School Street begins in Fortress Square. The house at number 46 stands out here. The building occupies the surface of three former lots and dates to the sixteenth century. The structure underwent repair work in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Between 1886 and 1889 it served as the old City Hall, and after restoration work in 1999–2001 it became the Sighisoara Hotel Complex.

City Hall

The building that now houses the city hall can be found near the Monastery Church. It is the old Tarnava Mare County Prefecture. The structure was erected in 1887–1888. On the first floor, there is a Baroque style auditorium, used for the Academic Music festival and other concerts performed by prestigious groups.

It is not only inside the fortress walls that old and picturesque buildings can be found. In the "Lower City" there is also a series of outstanding houses, including: the Zilinschi House (eighteenth century), the Baker's House, the Rosenthal House (eighteenth century), the

Handicraftsmen House (currently the Pearl of the Fortress Restaurant, nineteenth century), the building of the Steaua Hotel-Restaurant (eighteenth century) which was renovated in 1912 by Baltes in the art-nouveau style, the Herman Oberth House on Zaharia Boiu Street (twentieth century), and the notary building (twentieth century).

I.5.2.4. Preservation and Restoration of Historical Monuments

Some monuments have been preserved and restored appropriately: the Church on the Hill, the House with the Stag, the House on the Rock, Hotel Sighisoara, the Wagner House, the Interethnic Centre, the Joseph Haltrich House, the Shoemakers' Tower, etc.

Other monuments are either in the process of being restored, or do not require immediate restoration. Some of these include the Rope Worker's Tower (inhabited), the Clock Tower (museum), the Tailors' Tower (roof only restored), primary classes and boarding house of Joseph Haltrich High School, Blacksmiths' Tower, etc.

The central areas of the citadel are cleaned regularly. Less frequented areas, however, (e.g. the stairway to the citadel's road leading to "Boema" as well as the wooden hillsides at the north and south ends of the Fortress Hill, which originally looked like parks) are ignored. It is suggested that the entire hill of the fortress, including the forested area and the cemetery on the hill, be included in the tourism circuit.

From a social point of view, lifestyle has improved significantly as compared to previous times when the citadel had only poor inhabitants, as the old houses did not offer a high level of comfort. Currently, the majority of the houses have been acquired by persons with the potential to buy them.

Purchase of houses by persons foreign to the city should be avoided, as they would not visit their houses often and they would remain uninhabited for the majority of the time. It is important that the citadel remain inhabited even outside the high-tourist season. To this end, a food store would be beneficial, as would the establishment of a library and a small fruit and vegetable marketplace.

From a cultural point of view, throughout the centuries, Sighisoara has kept its importance as a cultural centre in the area.

I.5.3. Tourism

A large number of tourists come to Sighisoara every year, especially to visit the fortress. Unfortunately, there is insufficient providing of information to tourists who do not come as part of an organised group with a tour guide.

The museum offers information in the form of brochures regarding what can be visited and information on the guided tour of the fortress, but only to those who specifically ask. The creation of maps highlighting points of special interest and visitors routes would provide an important tool for informing tourists. It could also provide information on accommodation, visit objectives, restaurants, what can be visited outside of Sighisoara, etc.

Tourist attractions includes the Museum in the Clock Tower, the Medieval Armour, the Torture Chamber, the Monastery Church, the Church on the Hill, local artists' stands, restaurants with terraces, and the previously mentioned houses and the services they offer.

For this reason, it is essential that the Tourism Office function efficiently in order that it provide information requested by tourists, as well as more promotional material: maps, brochures, fliers, etc.

Also of interest is the increase in the diversity of the publicity and promotional materials for Sighisoara in all areas (historical, cultural, economic, civil society) in the form of books, CDs, etc.

Given the location of the city, the existence of medieval fortresses, and the plateaus which offer beautiful picturesque views, it is clear that the future of

Sighisoara depends on a more developed tourist sector. Relationships with travel agencies, efficient presentations by professional guides, and the creation of walking routes in the border areas of Sighisoara (the fortified citadels at Apold, Saschiz, Biertan, Cris Castle, Dumbraveni, Viscri, Malancrav, etc.) will server as reference points in the development of tourism and that of the city. In light of this, cleanliness of the city is essential, as is an increase in services offered by the economic agents in the citadel and the city below. The development of handicrafts would be of interest (braiding of vegetal materials, wood products, pottery), as these are characteristic of the area and not borrowed or influenced from abroad.

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It is necessary that the current Heritage Office works as efficiently as possible towards the maintenance of the medieval aspect of the citadel, and avoids modern

modifications to the exterior of buildings, which would change the aspect of the fortress, unique in our country.

LIST OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATION IN SIGHISOARA

No.	Commercial Entity	Accommodation Type	Classification	No. of Places	No. of Rooms	Type of Rooms
1	SC Acronea SRL	Hotel "Rex"	3 star	58	28 2	Double Apartments
2	SC Kokeltal SRL	Hotel "Europa"	3 star	70	37 5 1	Double Single Apartments
3	SC Medieval Tour SRL	Hotel "Sighisoara"	3 star	64	29 3	Double Apartments
4	SC Fantana Marcului SRL	Motel "Dracul"	3 star	38	14 3	Double Apartments
5	S.C. Gia SRL	Pension "Gia"	2 star	20	4 4	Double Triple
6	SC Fantana Marcului SRL	"Dracul" Inn	2 star	17	1 5	Double Triple
7	SC Cribo SRL	Motel "Claudiu"	3 star	32	7 6 1	Double Single Triple
8	SC Printul Dracula SRL	Steaua "Hotel"	1 star	121	9 8 14 19 1 3	Triples with bath Triple no bath Double with shower Double with sink Single with shower Single no shower
9	SC Restauro Messerschmitt SRL	"House with the Stag" Pension	3 star	20	8 2	Duble Single
10	A.F. Poenița	"Poenita" Pension	2 star	41	3 18 1	Triple Double 4 beds
11	SC Next SRL	"CHIC" Pension	2 star	19	9 1	Double Single
12	SC Next SRL	"Vila Franka" Camping	2 star	24	12	Double
13	PF Morar Simona	"Hera" Pension	2 star	16	2 5	Triple Double
14		"Wagner" House	2 star	10	2 2	Double Apartments
15		"Legenda" House		12	4 1	Double 4 beds
16	Educational Interethnic Centre for Youth	Burg Hostel		8	1 4 2 1	Double Triple 5 beds 6 beds
17	Children's Club Camping Ground			Area for 300 tents and two wooden lodges		
18		Medieval House in the Fortress	20 Carpenters Street	Apartment containing: living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom.		

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Geographical location of the fortress; Well preserved medieval condition of the fortress; Fully inhabited fortress; Large number of tourists; Accommodation up to European standards; Beauty of city's surrounding area: Breite, Vila Franka; Fortified citadels and churches in the surroundings: Saschiz, Biertan, Apold, Danes, Saes, Malancrav, etc.; Architectural heritage of value; UNESCO heritage site; Car access (E60) and rail access; Existence of City Museum in the Clock Tower; Industrial zone placed outside the perimeter of the old city.</p>	<p>Insufficient local budget for the renovation of state-owned houses and of towers, fortress wall, etc.; Lack of preservation of original building façade colours; Old sewage system – contributes to risk of landslide; Lack of appreciation of cultural heritage, lack of a specialised Tourist Information Office (information signs, map of the citadel, etc.); Inadequate display of inexperienced and amateur artists; Automotive traffic in the fortress; Lack of an adequate auditorium for performances and cinema; The CEC House does not fit into the architectural environment and is unfinished; Lack of a Cultural Heritage Office under the coordination of the Local Council; Insufficient materials for tourist information.</p>
Opportunities	Risks
<p>Traditional handicrafts; Opportunity to create museums and exhibitions in the fortress; Cycling tourism; Reestablishment of the Sighisoara-Agnita-Sibiu line; Close relationship with Saxons abroad (attraction of foreign travel agents, etc.); Close relationship with sister cities (adoption of good practice measures).</p>	<p>Transformation of the fortress into a complex of restaurants; Some of the houses in the fortress being not inhabited; Purchase of houses by foreign citizens, who do not live here more than for a short period of the year.</p>

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II. OBJECTIVES

II.1. ENVIRONMENT

II.1.1. Medium Term Objectives

- Strict control of polluting activities, education of the population, limiting of an area for hygienic protection in the collection area of the water plant, introduction of a regular drainage programme in the areas of water collection.
- Formation of accumulations into the hydrographic basin of the river Tarnava Mare and maintenance of the riverbed in order to decrease the risk of floods.
- Carrying out of necessary works to the minor riverbed of the river Tarnava Mare to halt erosion of the banks, spur regeneration of the clogged riverbed (it was last unclogged in 1977), and replant along the banks of the river.
- Eliminate the dumping of used water into the rivers. Permanent identification of uncontrolled evacuations of used household water into the river, and the immediate solving of the discovered issues.
- Cleaning the riverbeds of the three principal affluent rivers within city limits and in the valleys in the area of the Calea Sighisoara Bridge.
- Expansion of water distribution network and sewage network to peripheral neighbourhoods of the city.
- Adoption by the Local Council of specific rules regarding the parameters for used water, which will lead to the improvement of production and purification technologies for used industrial waters originating from the industrial platform, but also for the potentially polluting waters within the city; innovation of the water purification plant.
- Elaboration of an action plan for the extension of the sewage system and its analysis by representatives of the local public administration authority and NGOs, as well as representatives of the inhabitants of affected areas, taking into consideration that at present many streets still lack a sewage system.
- Transformation of the Breite plateau into a natural reservation; prohibit automotive traffic and grazing of animals.
- Maintenance of the slopes of School Hill.
- Educating the citizens in maintaining city cleanliness.
- Forbidden animal grazing on meadows and green spaces inside the city borders.
- Firm measures in the application of the Environmental Protection Law, respecting the decisions of the Local council related to the city's cleanliness.
- Selective waste collection with Euro Waste bins.
- Improvement of drinking water quality.
- Work to un-clog the river Tarnava Mare, as well as its affluent rivers, aided by participation of citizens by neighbourhood.
- Solving problems created by the noise pollution caused by the trains in the Tarnava II neighbourhood.
- Creation of social areas for entertainment, sport, tourism.

II.1.2. Long Term Objectives

- Awareness and use of the natural springs in the city.
- Creation of fountains and recreational areas in the vicinity of springs.
- Rebuilding of the wells within the fortress walls as points of interest for tourist and for the improvement of the surroundings.
- Eliminate disposal of used waters in the rivers.

II.1.3. Biodiversity

- Identification of wooden plants – rare, monumental, or with a decorative value, and the assurance of their continued regeneration.
- Collaboration between ecologists and natural resource managers for the sustainable maintenance and conservation of the biological diversity of species, habitats, and ecosystems. This would include the area surrounding the Lake Serches with the network of temporary ponds in the forests on the Hill of the Train station (Vila Franca area - 4 ponds with large surface areas and a series of smaller ponds) which contribute to the maintenance of a large diversity of plants and animals.
- Extending the protected area to the entire 120ha surface of the Breite platform, so that the area would benefit from a unified management plan and coherent administration, and including it in the network of protected areas of the European Union (with respect to the approaching accession).
- Maintenance of the quality of forest ecosystems by ensuring the presence of characteristics which contribute to the maintenance of their biodiversity.
- Protection of some temporary ponds and restoration of ponds which have disappeared or are about to disappear (Breite Platform, forests in the area of Vila Franca, Plopilor)
- Reforestation of certain deteriorated areas and employment of a larger diversity in agriculture. Use of natural/green fertilisers, especially in the Serches area.
- Initiation of educational programmes for adults to promote conservation of natural ecosystems, as well as to illustrate the long-term benefits to humans of biodiversity; education of children to positively influence their perception of biodiversity.
- Encouragement of garden owners to employ a higher degree of diversity in plants in their management of the garden.
- Reduction in the disposal of household wastewater into certain natural and recreation areas, where wastewater would cause ecological destruction and be a focus for the infection of the population.

II.1.4. Waste Management

- Elimination of unauthorised waste deposits and rendering of affected areas ecologically friendly;
- Research into placement of a new deposit for non-hazardous waste, taking into consideration the large quantities of this type of waste (1,800m³ per month) and the enlargement of the existing deposit;
- Implementation of a selective waste collection system among the general population and economic agents, especially those operating in commerce and services;
- Regulation of human waste depositing;
- Educational and informational activities regarding measures taken to reduce waste quantities from the population and from production processes, and their depositing in accordance with legal requirements.

II.2. ECONOMY

II.2.1. Industry

- Replacement of production equipment with inferior outputs as compared to similar equipment on the global scale for the consolidation of the positions of businesses in the internal market and to help them penetrate the external market;
- Diversification of production in terms of the supply and demand of the internal and external market;
- Support for the establishment and development of small and medium enterprises with activities in the production sector as a source for employment opportunities;
- Increase in the competitiveness of enterprises, by stimulating improvement in product quality and by promotion of products in the internal and external markets;
- Development of the services sector in general, especially tourist services;

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- Development of infrastructure that supports economic activities (centres for innovation and technology transfer, fixed perimeters around industrial areas), unlimited access to consulting and educational services;
- Creation of framework for attracting foreign investors, a vital condition in the compensation of local capital; increase labour productivity to a level which allows for improved living conditions;
- Development of economic activities dependent on resources of raw material in the area. Application of innovative technologies specific to these activities;
- Development in the collection and processing of plastic waste in order to be environmentally friendly and generate income from these waste;
- Achievement of the potential of tourism by including the surrounding areas in the tourism of city' development of tourism in general, including business tourism;
- Promotion of active measures to stimulate employment, development of modern human resources politics;
- Exceeding 5% of the total amount of taxes paid by economic agents directly in the local budget;
- Establishment of bicycle routes;
- Provide facilities for the attraction of investors, and follow proposed investments;
- Development of ecological agriculture and ecotourism;
- Attraction of experts in the promotion of local handicrafts;
- Installation of a poster at the entrance to Heitur, with the name of the town in Romanian, German, Hungarian (Hetiur, Marienburg, Hetur);
- Support the activities of handicraft studios by identifying them (creation of a database of names, of shoemakers, tailors, etc.) and attracting handicraft makers to favourable areas by offering adequate facilities (spaces with affordable rent, for a limited period);
- Finding a solution for automotive traffic and parking spaces, traffic control for through traffic entering the city;
- Establish a factory outlet store – for direct sales by all Sighisoara firms, possibly located in an

old industrial hall; creation of office space for potential investors ("Service Offices");

- Create 1-2 industrial parks, with flexible divisions according to the needs of future investors and having all necessary utilities;
- Solve problem of rainwater drainage in the city centre;
- Creation of inner city bicycle lanes;
- Maintenance of the banks of the river Tarnava Mare.

II.2.2. Agriculture

- Management of non-productive areas, improvement of surrounding environment by reforestation, development of social, economic, ecologic function of the forest;
- Organise symposia to inform and involve the community regarding the need of ecologically-friendly agricultural practices;
- Innovation of agricultural practices; increase in number of machinery, centres for the depositing of products, alternative activities for women;
- Modern market centre which will include: parking lot, offices, hall for cattle/animal auctions, waiting hall for cattle/animal;
- Appreciation and adequate use of areas with excess humidity levels;
- Development of bordering rural area, through return to organic agriculture, protection of areas with high degrees of biodiversity, maintenance of rural characteristic, improvement of surrounding scenery, conservation of local genetic resources;
- Reintroduction of medicinal plants and organic crops;

Sighisoara Municipality possesses an area of high agricultural potential, bordering the outer neighbourhoods and encompassing the suburban villages and communities (Hetiur, Rora, Venchi, Viilor, Aurel Vlaicu, Angofa). In this area, agriculture is the principal economic activity. Development of the area (which does not have access to the SAPARD programme), as well as the provision of equipment, will take advantage of the potential for agro-tourism and will represent an alternative to the historic and cultural tourism, thereby enriching what Sighisoara has to offer.

II.3. SOCIAL

- Promote an increase in living standards for persons with small and medium incomes;
- Educational programmes regarding birth rate increases;
- Improvement and development of services offered to persons in difficult situations;
- Management of street crossroads, enabling disabled persons to safely cross the street;
- Consolidation of the collaboration between NGOs and the public administration;
- Encourage NGO activity in the social field, by reducing the costs organisations pay for utilities and reducing taxes and fees;
- Non-discriminatory access for all inhabitants of the city to all public services;
- Creation of a statistics base at the municipality level;
- Enhancement and management of the park in the fortress, next to the Catholic Church;
- Reduction of infractions and violations of the law through educational and counseling programmes;
- Change the attitude in medical personnel with regard to the practice of medicine;
- Improvement of the functioning of existing hospital units;
- Provide medical units with competitive equipment and apparatus and provide services that use these new technologies;
- Build a new maternity ward;
- Reduce levels of mortality and depression, and increase birth rates and levels of hope;
- Build a family home for children in difficult situations (abandoned, in foster care);
- Establish a system for psycho-logopedical counseling in every primary school;
- Establish special services for disabled children;
- Increase educational standards and standards of living in the Rroma community, through counseling programmes and social aid (family planning);
- Establishment of a day-care centre for physically disabled minors and creation of workspaces for physically disabled adults;
- Establishment of educational programmes on abortion prevention;
- Secure favourable living conditions for children emerging from families with many children;
- Prevent the emigration of younger generations;
- Secure employment for younger generations;
- Establish programmes aimed at the formation and specialisation of youth in various fields after the completion of primary and secondary education;
- Increase services aimed at facilitating payment and other citizen obligations;
- Facilitating community interest services: Romanian Automotive Association, health warnings, registration of population, driving licenses, etc.;
- Encourage construction of private homes by providing financial credit with low interest rates and providing social housing;
- Create conditions for increasing the level of education in Sighisoara Municipality;
- Organise activities of a health-conscious and healing nature for senior citizens (including air quality, scenic surroundings, low pollution levels);
- Integrated medical centre – where treatment and research activities are carried out and which employs conventional and non-conventional medicine;
- Editing of a local cultural guide book at least twice per year;
- Organise exhibitions which combine sound and light shows inside the fortress;
- Create a mountain bike path which will include Stejarisuli, Breite, Venchi, Vila Franka;
- Improvement and refurbishing of the M. Eminescu and Ciprian Porumbescu (Sander) auditoriums, the skating rink, and the construction of an indoor swimming pool;
- Organise a city-wide spring festival, “Improve the city on a Saturday;”
- Annual contest with varied themes, e.g. “The most beautiful balcony”, “The most beautiful window” or “The most beautiful household;”
- Organise performances within the framework of various festivals on Vila Franka;
- Collaboration between specialised educational institutions and consultancy centres for the professional education of the local labour force;
- Prohibition of inappropriate behaviour on the streets;

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- Creation of local facilities for individual persons and legal representatives who are building living spaces for social purposes.

II.4. FORTRESS, TOURISM, MONUMENTS

- Creation of UMP (Urban Master Plan) for Sighisoara Municipality, including stipulations regarding the urbanism and management of the area and programmes for the monuments registered in world heritage;
- Creation of RUP (Regional Urban Plan) for the protected area having historical significance for Sighisoara Municipality;
- Creation of DUP (Detailed Urban Plan) for the lower city;
- Improvement and protection of the architectural heritage of historical value and its protective area; identification of new financing possibilities for the protection and preservation of the architectural heritage;
- Objectives in need of urgent conservation and preservation work include the Tanners' Tower, Furriers' Tower, Butchers' Tower and the northern portion of the Fortress Wall;
- Creation of inventory and monitoring of heritage (monuments) by the Patrimonial Service; finding solutions for conservation and preservation;
- Maintaining habitation in the fortress and avoiding its transformation into a busy hotel and restaurant centre;
- Enrichment of tourism in the fortress by organising permanent ethnography exhibitions and contemporary art exhibitions, ornithological exhibitions, and dedicate spaces to the city's celebrities, etc.;
- Maintenance of traditional architectural nature of the Sighisoara fortress (tiles, window shutters, etc.) and preservation of the traditional aesthetics of the area surrounding the fortress in terms of colours, plaster walls, gates, windows, etc.
- Move the city hall into the unfinished CEC building located in the city centre;
- Construction of well in medieval style;
- Attract the attention of organisers of national and international conferences, symposia, exhibitions, etc.;
- Establishment of a university in Sighisoara with diverse disciplines, which would strongly emphasise Sighisoara's importance as a cultural centre;
- Establishment of a tourist information point at a central location and creation of an explanatory map of the city in the Fortress Square;
- Creation of a tourist route connecting important handicraft sites (visits to metal and ceramics studios, etc.);
- Eliminate automotive traffic in the citadel;
- Management of the documentary section of the Municipal Library so that it can be visited and consulted;
- Composition of a historical narrative of the schools in Sighisoara, establishment of a museum dedicated to the "Joseph Haltrich" High School, and organisation of activities such as "tourists become students for a day;"
- Organise a route for tourists along the fortress wall, establishment of museums for guilds and handicrafts in the fortress towers;
- Establishment of a route for visiting the city's surroundings;
- Setting up an information office for tourists inside the fortress;
- Reestablishment of the old narrow railway line connecting Sighisoara and Agnita (leaving from Ana Ipatescu St.);
- Gradual replacement of inappropriate advertisement inside the fortress and the lower city, and a return to a medieval atmosphere;
- Establishment of an area for the retail of fresh food products specific to the region within the fortress (e.g. Zacusca, eggplant, bacon with onion, plum brandy, etc.);
- Indicatory signs displaying the plan of the city located at the entrance to Sighisoara;
- Establishment of tourist routes;
- Establishment of "educational routes" with posters presenting information on flora and fauna;
- Establishment of an ethnographic museum;
- Establishment of a cultural and post-secondary education centre in the building currently hosting the City Hall.



MUNICIPALITY

III. LOCAL ACTION PLAN

III.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Analysis of the situation in Sighisoara Municipality and evaluation of objectives has led to the establishment of the following general priority objectives for development in the short and medium term:

- Urban enhancement (preservation and a raised awareness of the historical centre – both the fortress and the lower city);
- Improved urban infrastructure and increased accessibility for citizens to this infrastructure;
- Development of tourism by offering a range of tourist attractions (increasing historic and cultural tourism, reaching potential of surrounding areas, stimulating the creation of cultural institutions in line with the area's potential, raising population awareness in terms of the area's potential);
- Increase services within the framework of the municipality's economy;
- Regeneration and raising awareness of natural resources (especially of humid areas, water resources, and flora and fauna characteristic of this area);

III.2. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

In order to meet the proposed objectives with the Local Agenda 21 framework, which aims to achieve the sustainable development of Sighisoara, it is necessary to employ both human and financial resources, as well as to identify the most effective mechanism to use these resources.

Achievement of the objectives implies the strengthening of the Sighisoara Municipality City Hall institutional capacity at both the level of decision making level and implementation, the attraction of financial resources sufficient for investment, the improvement in levels of expertise in human resources, and the identification of the most effective ways of communication.

III. 2.1. Management of Human Resources

Efficient employment policy for human resources:

- Create a correlation between the administration system's needs and the existing human resources capacities;
- Office files to be kept up to date as necessary;
- Establishment of an updated organisational and functional system;

Increased level of professional expertise by City Hall staff:

- Achieve a superior qualitative level of professional expertise through staff attendance of instruction programmes (trainings, courses, seminars) at least once per year;
- Collaboration with other institutions and organisations on the design of preparatory courses in the areas of local administration;
- Identify possibilities for participation in financing programmes for the improvement of human resources.

Motivate and increase responsibility levels among personnel:

- Increase awareness of personnel regarding the importance of every staff member's activity;
- Create exchanges of knowledge and experience with similar institutions in other cities, either on a national level, or with foreign sister cities;
- Financial stimulation for employees depending on the efficiency of their activity.

III. 2.2. Efficient communication and management of services

- Create efficient collaboration between different departments and offices within City Hall;
- Ensure effective activities within services and offices of City Hall.

III. 2.3. Achievement of EU Institutional Capacity

- Implementation of an institutional structure able to adapt to the common legislation.

III. 2.4. Management of Citizen Relations

The local administration of Sighisoara Municipality includes in its priority objectives the improvement of the relationship between the individual citizen and the administration taking into account several fundamental principles of this relationship: services offered are for the benefit of the citizens, transparency in the decision making process and its application, active and effective participation of the civil society in the decision making process, and efficient methods for communicating with citizens.

Another objective is the elaboration and implementation of a system for the monitoring of the quality of services offered to citizens, and the level of satisfaction of the community's demands.

III.3. FINANCIAL PROJECTION

- thousands lei -

NAME OF INDICATOR	accomplished	accomplished	accomplished	accomplished	approved	estimated	estimated
year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
INCOME - TOTAL	41,548,800	101,404,270	122,883,789	158,161,596	196,985,583	316,304,142	233,304,473
INDIVIDUAL INCOME - TOTAL	26,913,257	33,126,775	35,506,920	58,993,375	109,733,893	120,707,333	130,059,919
I. CURRENT INCOME	14,859,119	25,541,475	27,514,020	41,933,375	66,729,683	73,782,702	79,685,317
A. FISCAL INCOME	11,364,389	19,240,955	22,654,632	35,526,000	47,596,480	52,356,128	56,544,618
A1.DIRECT TAXES	11,183,840	17,389,562	21,902,132	28,946,000	35,407,080	38,947,788	42,063,611
A2. INDIRECT TAXES	180,549	1,851,393	752,500	6,580,000	12,189,400	13,408,340	14,481,007
B. NON-FISCAL INCOME	3,494,730	6,300,520	4,859,388	6,407,375	19,133,204	21,426,574	23,140,699
II. CAPITAL INCOME	1,922,961	3,351,000	3,512,000	12,120,000	9,110,000	9,641,000	10,108,280
III. SPECIAL DESTINATION INCOME	10,131,177	4,234,300	4,480,900	4,940,000			
IV. AMOUNTS TAKEN OVER FROM THE STATE BUDGET	13,894,963	66,001,040	87,376,869	99,168,221	119,620,400	131,582,440	142,109,036
SHARES DISTRIBUTED FROM SALARY	1,353,454	3,000					
AMOUNTS DISTRIBUTED FROM THE V.A.T. FOR LOCAL BUDGETS			58,037,563	65,038,424	79,601,012	87,561,113	94,566,002
SHARES AND AMOUNTS DISTRIBUTED FROM INCOME TAXES	12,541,509	65,998,040	29,339,306	34,129,797	0	0	0
VI. SUBSIDIES	0	2,276,455			935,500	649,000	700,920
VII. RECEIPTS FROM LOAN REIMBURSEMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIII. LOANS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EXPENSES - TOTAL	41,675,205	101,404,270	122,913,798	158,161,596	196,985,583	216,304,142	233,304,473
A. CURRENT EXPENSES	30,134,786	83,157,466	115,036,734	109,072,278	167,631,493	189,680,223	198,943,576
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	10,623,835	57,633,275	75,885,560	79,559,807	97,728,445	109,225,869	117,943,576

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NAME OF INDICATOR	accomplished	accomplished	accomplished	accomplished	approved	estimated	estimated
year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
MATERIALS AND SERVICES EXPENSES	14,141,455	16,035,509	23,865,127	39,240,185	49,329,989	53,873,987	58,596,842
SUBSIDIES	2,741,918	6,243,080	11,230,300	7,962,866	9,632,182	10,595,400	11,443,032
TRANSFERS	2,830,622	3,929,785	4,874,201	6,305,829	7,440,878	8,184,966	8,839,763
INTEREST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. CAPITAL EXPENSES	10,821,983	17,704,584	7,668,064	20,990,000	23,354,090	25,423,920	27,960,897
C. FINANCIAL OPERATIONS	99	0	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
D. RESERVES	100,000	750,000		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,400,000
I. GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES - TOTAL	6,101,882	9,359,370	11,754,304	16,809,880	19,555,458	24,335,804	26,282,669
CURRENT EXPENSES	5,731,564	9,081,370	11,275,304	15,199,880	18,655,658	22,245,804	24,025,469
CAPITAL EXPENSES	370,318	278,000	479,000	1,610,000	899,800	2,090,000	2,257,200
III. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXPENSES - TOTAL	10,244,892	55,352,915	73,285,486	86,636,810	110,223,035	119,145,339	130,676,967
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	4,606,414	4,841,240	65,377,436	67,287,300	79,599,624	87,559,575	94,564,341
MATERIAL AND SERVICES EXPENSES	1,337,132	1,767,993	1,912,500	11,764,315	15,808,092	16,888,900	18,140,013
SUBSIDIES	472,486	1,527,080	1,530,803	1,279,366	1,745,652	1,920,117	2,073,834
TRANSFERS	2,830,622	3,929,785	4,974,201	6,305,829	7,440,878	8,184,966	8,839,763
CAPITAL EXPENSES	1201282	400,000	200,000		5,628,800	4,591,680	7059015
EDUCATION	3,456,461	47,055,779	63,682,974	74,483,290	90,265,082	99,291,590	107,234,917
HEALTH	203,044	439,183	517,597	879,464	2,037,767	2,241,544	2,420,867
PERSONNEL EXPENSES		146,923	474,577	804,464	949,268	1,044,194	1,127,730
MATERIAL AND SERVICES EXPENSES	203,044	292,260	43,020	75,000	1,088,500	1,197,350	1,293,138
CULTURE, RELIGION AND ACTIVITIES REGARDING YOUTH AND SPORTS	2,690,874	2,320,872	2,112,650	2,789,561	7,707,882	6,378,671	8,888,965
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, APPROPRIATIONS, PENSIONS, BENEFITS, AND COMPENSATIONS	3,894,513	5,537,081	6,942,265	8,484,495	10,212,304	11233534	12,132,217
IV. SERVICES AND PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND WATERS	13,225,791	29,228,245	27,813,996	43,879,318	46,862,295	51,893,26	54,961,223
V. ECONOMIC ACTIONS	1,654,701	2,265,860	3,004,932	4,665,618	10,573,429	11,630,772	12,561,234
AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL CULTURE	20,984	89,860	278,532	1,165,618	1,375,429	1,512,972	1,634,010
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION	1,633,717	2,176,000	2,726,400	3,500,000	6,130,000	6,743,000	7,282,440
OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIONS	0	0			3,068,000	3,374,800	3,644,784
VI. OTHER ACTIONS	455,398	213,580	669,914	229,970	271,365	298,501	322,381
IX. WARRANTY AND REDISTRIBUTION FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
XI. TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
XI GRANTED LOANS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
XII. INTEREST PAYMENTS AND OTHER EXPENSES	0	0	0	0	3,500,000	2,800,000	2,100,000
XIV. LOAN REIMBURSEMENT	0	0	0	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
XV. RESERVE FUNDS	100,000	750,000	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,400,000
XVI. SPECIAL DESTINATION LOANS	9,892,442	4,234,300	4,480,900	4,940,000			
XVII. EXCESS/DEFICIT							
EXCESS	-126,405	0	30,009	0	0	0	0
DEFICIT		0		0	0	0	0

III.4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
ENVIRONMENT								
1	Environmental protection and control of polluting activities in Sighisoara municipality.		Educate the population with regard to city cleanliness; Determine boundaries for protected area at the collection point for the water treatment plant; Regular programme for riverbed de-clogging; Eliminate waste water disposal into rivers; Measures for applying the Environmental Protection Law, and respecting Local Council Decisions regarding city cleanliness; Prohibition of animal grazing inside the city.	700 400 3,000 1,000 500 100	2004-2007	City Hall, Environmental NGOs, S.C. Thermal Water Transport S.A.	S.C. Thermal Water Transport S.A.	City Hall LA21 Local Office
2	Management of the river bed of the river Tarnava Mare		Create accumulations in the hydrographic basin of the river Tarnava Mare; Rehabilitation works for the riverbed and banks of the river Tarnava Mare; Clean the riverbeds of the three affluent rivers (with community participation).	100,000 25,000	2004-2012	City Hall, S.C. ATT S.A. "Romanian Waters" National Agency	"Romanian Waters" National Agency, environmental NGOs, community representatives by neighbourhood	City Hall LA21 Local Office
3	Extension of regional water supply system and sewage network	SAMTID	Restoration and extension of drinking water supply and sewage network in Sighisoara; Improvement of drinking water quality; Restore drinking water pumping station.	2,000,000	2005 - 2007	City Hall S.C. ATT S.A.	S.C. ATT S.A.	City Hall LA21 Local Office
4	Improvement of water treatment plant		Upgrade water treatment plant; Determine specific rules for the parameters of used water.	2,000,000	2004-2010	City Hall SC ATT SA	SC ATT SA	City Hall LA21 Local Office
5	Raise awareness of natural springs within the city		Appreciation and use of the natural springs within the city; Management of artistic fountains; Renovation of wells in the fortress, making them tourist attractions.	10,000	2004-2007	City Hall SC ATT SA Environmental NGOs	SC ATT SA Environmental NGOs History Museum	City Hall LA21 Local Office
6	Protection and appreciation of Breite plateau		Preservation of the entire Breite plateau as a natural reservation, prohibition of automotive traffic and animal grazing.	50,000	2004-2008	City Hall Environmental NGOs Forestry Department	Forestry Department Environmental NGOs	City Hall LA21 Local Office
7	Restoration of green areas within the municipality		Maintenance of hillsides of the School Hill; Restoration programme for the parks in the municipality.	15,000 65,000	2004-2007	City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office

S I G H I Ş O A R A

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
8	Solve problems related to noise pollution in Tarnava II neighbourhood		Install panels for sound absorption on the sides of the railway in the Tarnava II neighbourhood.	215,000	2004-2010	City Hall S.C. ATT S.A.	SNCFR	City Hall LA21 Local Office
9	Variation of options for leisure activities		Management of an area for leisure, sports, tourism.	50,000	2004-2010	City Hall S.C. ATT S.A. Tourism Agency	SC ATT SA Tourism Agency	City Hall LA21 Local Office
10	BIODIVERSITY Creation of biodiversity database, and permanent monitoring of rare and monumental species, etc.		Identification of rare and monumental wooden plants of decorative value; Extend protected area on Breite plateau.	3,000	2004-2007	City Hall Schools Environmental NGOs	Schools Environmental NGOs	City Hall LA21 Local Office
11	Conservation and sustainability of biodiversity		Collaboration programme between ecologists and managers of natural resources for the maintenance of biodiversity; Maintenance of the quality of forest ecosystems; Protection of temporary ponds and the restoration of ponds that have disappeared; Reforestation of deteriorated areas, growing of more diverse agricultural crops; Reduce waste water flow into natural and leisure areas.	700 18,000 400,000 85,000	2004-2012	City Hall Schools Environmental NGOs	Schools Environmental NGOs	City Hall LA21 Local Office
12	Educate the population regarding the protection of natural ecosystems		Educational programmes for the awareness of citizens in terms of biodiversity; Establishment of educational programmes for children aimed at positively influencing their perceptions of biodiversity; Encourage garden owners to use a larger diversity of plants in their gardens.	5,000	2004-2007	City Hall Schools Environmental NGOs Owners Associations	Schools Environmental NGOs Owners Associations	City Hall LA21 Local Office
13	WASTE MANAGEMENT Continuation of the project of restoration and management of landfills		Eliminate unauthorised deposits and render areas where such deposits have taken ecologically-friendly; Establishment of a new deposit for non-hazardous waste on a different site.	35,000 2,000	2004-2010	City Hall S.C. Schuster Ecosal S.R.L.	S.C. Schuster Ecosal S.R.L.	City Hall LA21 Local Office
14	Development of a local strategy for promoting cleanliness in the city.		Selective waste collection with Euro Waste cans, regulated human waste deposits; Education programme for the population regarding a cleaner city.	35,000 7,000	2004-2010	City Hall S.C. Schuster Ecosal S.R.L.	S.C. Schuster Ecosal S.R.L.	City Hall LA21 Local Office

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
ECONOMY								
1.	INDUSTRY, SERVICES Increased competition among industrial activities, and varying of production		Increased competitiveness in the internal and external production markets by improving production equipment, diversification programmes for production depending on the opportunities of the internal and external markets; Increased competition among enterprises by stimulating higher product quality.	30,000	2004-2006	City Hall Chamber of Commerce Economic Agents	Chamber of Commerce Economic Agents	City Hall LA21 Local Office
2.	Active policies for the development of economic activities from the production and services sector		Support programme for the establishment and development of SMEs with activities in the production sector; Programme aimed at attracting foreign investments providing facilities and following these investments; Development of economic action infrastructure by establishing: Innovation centre Consultancy centre.	80,000	2004-2012	City Hall Chamber of Commerce SME	Chamber of Commerce SME	City Hall LA21 Local Office
3.	Stimulate development of economic activities working with primary materials in the area.		Stimulate the development of economic activities working with primary materials in the area.	67,000	2004-2005	City Hall Local Council SME	Local Council SME	City Hall LA21 Local Office
4.	Develop regional tourism		Development of services sector, especially tourist services.	300,000	2004-2006	City Hall Tourism Operators	Tourism Operators	City Hall LA21 Local Office
5.	Develop modern policies for human resources		Professional orientation and educational programmes; Programmes to encourage an increase in employment levels.	60,000	2004-2007	City Hall High schools, professional schools Mures County Employment Agency	High schools, professional schools Mures County Employment Agency	City Hall LA21 Local Office
6.	Initiative to collect 5% of taxes paid by economic agents, directly into the local budget		Initiative to collect 5% of taxes paid by economic agents, directly into the local budget.		2004	City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
7.	Renew urban infrastructure		Programme to improve road traffic, create parking spaces, and direct suburban traffic; Create bicycles lanes in the city as well as creating bicycle routes in the city's surroundings.	3,000,000 280,000	2005-2010	City Hall	Sighisoara Police Department	City Hall LA21 Local Office
8.	Stimulate development of traditional economic activities		Supporting programme for the studios of small handicraft workers by identifying them (create a database) and encouraging their activities by creating specialised facilities.	8,000	2004-2006	City Hall Mures County Employment Agency NGO	Mures County Employment Agency NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
9.	Encourage development of agricultural tourism and organic agriculture		Organise symposia for community awareness with regard to organic agriculture; Organic agriculture development programme in border zone of Sighisoara municipality; Reestablishment of medicinal plant specialty; Appreciation and exploitation of agricultural potential in the following suburban neighbourhoods: Hetiur, Rora, Venchi, Viilor, Aurel Vlaicu and Angofa.		2004-2007	City Hall County Agricultural Department Agricultural producers	County Agricultural Department Agricultural producers	City Hall LA21 Local Office
10.	Protection of biodiversity		Programme for the improvement in management of non-producing and forested areas; Appreciation and use of areas with excess humidity levels.		2004-2008	City Hall Forestry Department	Forestry Department	City Hall LA21 Local Office
11.	Development of an infrastructure specific to agricultural activities		Upgrading of agricultural activities; Establishment of machinery parks and depositing areas for products; Programme for the creation of additional employment opportunities for women in agriculture; Modern market centre (with animal auction room, offices, parking lot, etc.).		2004-2010	City Hall County Agricultural Department Mures County Employment Agency	County Agricultural Department Mures County Employment Agency	City Hall LA21 Local Office
SOCIAL								
1.	Improved relationship between local administration and NGOs involved in the social sphere.		Consolidation programme for the collaboration of the local administration with NGOs by establishing: Family counseling centre; Emergency shelter for persons in difficult situations; Rehabilitation centre for disabled persons; Fairs related to important events (Easter, Christmas, etc.); Encourage NGO activity in the social sphere by contributing fiscal facilities.	38,000 67,000 354,000 24,000	2004 - 2012	City Hall Social NGOs	Social NGOs	City Hall LA21 Local Office
2.	Reduce number of institutionalised children		Create family-type shelters.	190,000	2004-2009	City Hall Social institutions NGO	Social institutions NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
3.	Increase population size by reducing abortion rates	City Hall Social NGO Hospital	Abortion prevention programme, "Every child has the right to live."	10,000	2004-2005	City Hall Social NGO Hospital	City Hall, Hospital Social NGO	City Hall, NGO

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
4.	Increased quality of social assistance services offered by the local administration		Programme for the improvement and development of social services; Management of street intersections so that they may be crossed by disabled persons; Non-discriminating access for citizens to any public service.	64,000 7,000	2004-2007	City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
5.	Creation of a database at city level regarding persons in difficult situations	City Hall	Creation of a database at city level, regarding persons in difficult situations	600	2004/2005	City Hall NGO	NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
7.	Reduce infractions through counseling and education programmes		Education programmes for delinquent youths, including the organisation of seminars; Counseling service for previously imprisoned persons.	6,000	2004-2007	City Hall NGO Police department	NGO Police department	City Hall LA21 Local Office
8.	Improved social assistance for disabled minors		Programme for the implementation of new services for disabled minors; Establishment of a day care centre for disabled minors;	40,000	2005 - 2007	City Hall Social institutions NGO	Social institutions NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
9.	Educating the community to prevent and oppose antisocial and inappropriate behaviour		Educational preventive programmes to avoid antisocial behaviour by distributing promotional pamphlets and organising public debates in various neighbourhoods.	24,000	2004 - 2006	City Hall NGO Owners Associations	NGO Owners Associations	City Hall LA21 Local Office
10.	Educational programmes promoting higher birth rates		Organise seminars for young couples, "Would it be fit for us to have a child?"; Promotional programmes for activities encouraging higher birth rates through printing flyers and brochures.	4,000	2005	City Hall Hospital	Hospital NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
11.	Improved quality of health care services provided to the population		Programme aimed at improving the mentality of specialist medical personnel with regard to the practice of medicine; Programme aimed at improving the functioning of existing hospital units; Provide medical units with updated equipment, offering of new services.	38,000	2004 - 2007	City Hall Hospital County Health Department	Hospital County Health Department	City Hall LA21 Local Office
12.	Construction of a new and modern maternity ward		Construction of a new and modern maternity ward	2,300,000	2005 - 2007	City Hall Hospital	Hospital	City Hall LA21 Local Office
13.	Reduce death rate and depression, increase birth rate and hope levels.		Seminar programme: How to lead a healthy life; Stress-induced illnesses; The negative effect of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes.	12,000	2005 - 2006	City Hall Hospital Family medical offices	Hospital Family medical offices	City Hall LA21 Local Office
14.	Improve selection of socio-medical services for senior citizens		Efforts to stimulate the organisation of health-conscious activities for senior citizens; Centre for integrated medicine – classical and non-conventional medicine for senior citizens.	470,000	2007 - 2012	City Hall Association of Retired Citizens Hospital	Association of Retired Citizens	City Hall LA21 Local Office

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Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
15.	Prevent the emigration of young generations		Carry out studies examining the reasons and motivations for the emigration of younger generations; Programme to encourage the creation of jobs for younger generations	8,000	2004	City Hall Social NGO	Social NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
16.	Increased standards of living for persons on low incomes		Support programmes for persons and families with low incomes; Support programmes for minors in homes with many children	37,000	2004 - 2009	City Hall Social NGO	Social NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
17.	Improved services aimed at the entire community		Increase selection of services aimed at simplifying payments and citizen obligations; Easier access to community services: health warnings, Romanian Automotive Association, population registry, driving licenses, etc.	80,000	2004	City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
18.	Facilitate private home construction by providing credit at low interest rates		Facilitate private home construction by providing credit at low interest rates		2005 - 2012	City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
19.	CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT Prepare a biannual cultural guide		Prepare a biannual cultural guide	30,000	2004 - 2012	City Hall Cultural House NGO	Cultural House NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
20.	Organise performances combining sound and music inside Sighisoara's fortress		Organise performances combining sound and music inside Sighisoara's fortress	15,000	2005 - 2010	City Hall Cultural agents	Cultural agents	City Hall LA21 Local Office
21.	Creation of a mountain bike route Stejaris-Breite-Venchi-Vila Franka		Creation of a mountain bike route Stejaris-Breite-Venchi-Vila Franka	14,000	2005 - 2006	City Hall NGO Sports association	NGO Sports association	City Hall LA21 Local Office
22.	Organisation of performances as part of festivals at Vila Franka		Organisation of performances as part of festivals at Vila Franka		2004 - 2012	City Hall NGO	NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
23.	Improvement and maintenance of performance halls and leisure places		Renovation and management of the "Mihai Eminescu" and "Ciprian Porumbescu" auditoriums; Renovation of the skating rink; Renovation of indoor pool.	430,000 1,100,000	2004 2005 - 2008	City Hall City Hall	City Hall S.C. Vlaimark	City Hall LA21 Local Office
EDUCATION AND LEARNING								
1.	Increased quality of education in Sighisoara municipality	City Hall	Renovate school buildings; Programme to equip educational institutions with educational materials and renovation of science laboratories; Provide schools with adequate material regarding hygienic and sanitary education.	100,000/year	permanent	City Hall Schools	Schools	City Hall LA21 Local Office
2.	Establish psycho – logopedical counseling in every primary school	City Hall	Creation of an adequate space for counseling sessions in every school			Schools		City Hall LA21 Local Office

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
3.	Higher educational and living standards among the Rroma community achieved through counseling programmes (family planning)	City Hall	1.Common programmes between schools and foundations and NGOs in the city; 2.Creation of leisure spaces for the Rroma community; 3. Educational programmes with students and families with problems; 4. Creation of an action plan to increase the involvement of Rroma youth in the education system.	24,000 / year	permanent	Schools Co-ordination Centre NGO	NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
4.	Organise formation and specialisation programmes for youth from various backgrounds after their completion of primary and secondary education	City Hall	1. Larger variety of specialised courses for youth; 2. Collaboration between professional education units and consultancy centres for the employment of the labour force in the area.		permanent	Schools Mures County Employment Agency	Mures County Employment Agency	City Hall LA21 Local Office
FORTRESS, TOURISM, MONUMENTS								
1.	ARCHITECTURE, SURROUNDINGS Creation of urban plans for Sighisoara municipality		Creation of Urban Master Plan for Sighisoara municipality, including the issues and preservation of the territories inscribed in the world heritage; Creation of Local Urban Plan for the protected areas with historical value for the municipality; Creation of Detailed Urban Plan for the lower city.	220,000	2004 - 2005	City Hall County department for culture and religion Department for Historical Monuments	Department of Historical Monuments	City Hall LA21 Local Office
2.	Creation and monitoring of a restoration and preservation programme of monuments according to existing needs		Creation and monitoring of the historical heritage by the Heritage Service; Restoration and preservation of built historic heritage of the area and its protective area; Identification of financing sources; Urgent restoration and preservation of the following: Tanners' Tower, Furriers' Tower, Butchers' Tower, and the fortress wall.	17,000	2004 - 2005	City Hall County department for culture and religion Department for Historical Monuments		
3.	Maintenance of medieval architectural aspect, especially of the UNESCO protected areas, by establishing strict preservation criteria		Establishment of strict criteria for the maintenance of the traditional architectural aspect of the fortress, taking into consideration specific details (colours, plaster, window shutters, windows, etc.); Programme for the maintenance of the citadel as an inhabited area, and avoidance of its transformation into a busy restaurant and hotel centre.			City Hall Department for Historical Monuments	Department for Historical Monuments	City Hall LA21 Local Office
4.	Restoration of infrastructure in the protected historical area		Restoration of infrastructure in the protected historical area; Building of a well in medieval style.			City Hall SC ATT SA History Museum	History Museum	City Hall LA21 Local Office

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Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
5.	Establishment of a cultural and post-secondary education centre in the building currently housing the City Hall (which previously housed the Tarnava Mare County prefecture)		Establishment of a cultural and post-secondary education centre in the building currently housing the City Hall (which previously housed the Tarnava Mare County prefecture); Move City Hall into the unfinished CEC building.			City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
6.	Encouragement and implementation of cultural tourism by attracting organisations specialising in conferences, symposia, and national and international exhibitions		Encouragement and implementation of cultural tourism by attracting organisations specialising in conferences, symposia, and national and international exhibitions.			City Hall Cultural Agents	Cultural Agents	City Hall LA21 Local Office
7.	Establishment of a university in Sighisoara with diverse courses aimed at emphasising the importance of culture		Sighisoara Cultural University; Management of the library; Exhibit documentation of the Cultural University.			City Hall Municipal Library	Municipal Library	City Hall LA21 Local Office
8.	Increased variety of tourism by organising museums and exhibitions displaying varied subject matters		Establishment of an ethnographic museum; Arrange exhibitions around the following topics: Ethnography; Classical and contemporary fine art; Geological subjects; Establishment of memorial homes and spaces representative of Sighisoara celebrities.			City Hall History Museum Cultural NGOs	History Museum	City Hall LA21 Local Office
9.	Fortress – pedestrian area		Plan for the prohibition of automotive traffic in the fortress; Programme for providing supplies to stores and restaurants, tourist transport to hotels.			City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
10.	Replace inappropriate advertisements in the fortress and in the lower city		Replace inappropriate advertisements in the fortress and in the lower city with specifically medieval advertisements.			City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office
11.	Encourage progressive commercial activities, including the selling of specific food products		Establish a space for the buying and selling of fresh food products specific to the area, within the fortress wall.			City Hall Producers	Producers	City Hall LA21 Local Office
12.	TOURISM Improved means of providing tourist information		Establish a tourist information office in the central area; Establish a tourist information point in the fortress; Create and display an explanatory map of Sighisoara Fortress.			City Hall Tourism agents	Travel agents	City Hall LA21 Local Office

Item No.	Specific Objectives	Financing	Project Title	Estimated Proj. Value (Eur)	Period	Responsible Institutions / Departments	Partnerships	Monitoring and Evaluation
13.	Found handicraft studios, antique bookstores, and tours for handicrafts within the fortress		Establish handicraft studios, museums for guilds, and antique book stores inside the fortress; Create a "Sightseeing tour for handicrafts;" Organise a tourist route along the fortress wall.			City Hall History Museum Cultural House NGO	History Museum Cultural House NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
14.	Establish a museum for Sighisoara education within the "Joseph Haltrich" High School		Establish a museum for Sighisoara education within the "Joseph Haltrich" High School.			City Hall "Joseph Haltrich" High School	"Joseph Haltrich" High School	City Hall LA21 Local Office
15.	Organise tourist sightseeing tours in the areas surrounding the city		Organise tourist sightseeing tours in the areas surrounding the city; Establish specialised tours, such as "educative paths" for the exploration of flora and fauna.			City Hall Environmental NGO Schools	Schools Environmental NGO	City Hall LA21 Local Office
16.	Rebuild the old narrow train station connecting Sighisoara and Agnita, with its station on Ana Ipatescu St.		Rebuild the old narrow train station connecting Sighisoara and Agnita, with its station on Ana Ipatescu St.			City Hall History Museum	History Museum	City Hall LA21 Local Office
17.	Place signs displaying city maps at various points of interest		Place signs displaying city maps at various points of interest (i.e. train station, parking lots, etc.).			City Hall		City Hall LA21 Local Office

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IV. PRIORITY PROJECTS

1. EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR PERSONS IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Lack of housing for persons in difficult situations at the level of the municipality
- Existence of persons in difficult situations
- Lack of social services in this domain

Objective:

- Improved social services offered to persons in difficult situations
- Decrease in the number of unresolved social cases

Results:

- Good quality social services
- Decrease in death rate and depression
- Decreased hospitalisation costs

Main Activities:

- Creation of a database
- Construction of shelter for persons found in difficult situations
- Promotion of centre's activity

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 67,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD funding, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person:

- Social NGOs – Florin Avram

2. MANAGEMENT OF THE ENTIRE BREITE PLATEAU AS A NATURAL RESERVATION, PROHIBITION OF AUTOMOTIVE TRAFFIC AND ANIMAL GRAZING

Location:

- Sighisoara, Breite plateau

Justification:

- On the Breite plateau has centuries-old oak trees in need of protection. Animals still graze in the area and destroy oak sprouts and seedlings. Uncontrolled automotive traffic can also cause damage to the protected area.
- The value of this natural area as part of national natural heritage itself justifies protection of this region.

Objectives:

- Complete inventory of the oak trees in this area and their monitoring
- Create a monograph of the Breite plateau
- Complete documentation necessary for the extension of the protected area to encompass the entire Breite plateau

Results:

- Increased protection of the oak trees on the Breite plateau
- Informing the community in terms of protection of Sighisoara's natural heritage
- Better promotion of the value of Sighisoara's natural heritage

Main Activities:

- Increased capacity for the collection and intake of waste and precipitation water

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 50,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Local budget
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- The “Sustainable Sighisoara” Foundation is implementing a project for the extension and protection of the Breite plateau protected area.

Contact Person:

- “Sustainable Sighisoara” Foundation – Alexandru Gota

3. REPAIR AND EXTENSION OF THE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE NETWORKS IN SIGHISOARA

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Due the age of water supply system there are frequent ruptures to the distribution pipes requiring costly and difficult repairs. Deposits created within the pipes are large and have a negative impact on water quality.
- The sewage system in the centre of the old city no longer meets the required capacity for intake and transport. For this reason there are frequent blockages of the sewers and homes in the centre are flooded, especially during periods with high levels of precipitation.

Objectives:

- Improved drinking water distribution system
- Improved quality of drinking water

Results:

- Increased sewage network quality serving inhabitants in the centre
- Minimise damages caused by the existing sewage system

Main Activities:

- Upgrading of the drinking water distribution network
- Upgrading of the sewage network

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 2 million EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Local budget
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Feasibility study for a section of the water distribution network and sewage network

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall: Victor Moldovan

4. PROGRAMME AIMED AT PROHIBITING AUTOMOTIVE TRAFFIC IN THE FORTRESS

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Automotive traffic inside the fortress walls harms the monuments, which are old buildings without foundations, as well as the aesthetic aspect of the citadel.



SIGHISOARA

Objectives:

- Protection and preservation of Sighisoara's historical and cultural heritage

Results:

- Increased level of protection for monuments
- Improved tourism

Main Activities

- Promote the idea of protecting heritage
- Organise an initiative on traffic in the fortress

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 10,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Daniela Oprea

5. RECREATE THE OLD NARROW RAILWAY CONNECTING SIGHISOARA AND AGNITA

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Increased diversity in tourism

Objectives:

- Provide new opportunities for leisure activities for tourists and locals alike

Results:

- Increase the number of tourists visiting for a longer period of time

- Increased appreciation for the natural heritage in the city's surrounding areas

Main Activities

- Construction of narrow railway

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 3,000,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Daniela Oprea

6. CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MATERNITY WARD

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Services offered by the existing maternity ward are inadequate
- The existing building is very old and in an advanced state of disrepair
- Repair work would cost more than the construction of a new building

Objectives:

- Improvement in health care provided to the citizens

Results:

- Decrease infant mortality rate
- Higher degree of satisfaction of community needs

Main Activities

- Construction of a new maternity ward

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 2,300,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Municipal Hospital – Stelian Larga, MD

7. SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF SMALL HANDICRAFT WORKERS BY IDENTIFYING THEM (CREATION OF A DATABASE) AND ENCOURAGE THEIR ACTIVITY BY PROVIDING ADEQUATE FACILITIES

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Activities of small handicraft workers is declining
- Traditional handicrafts are being lost
- This activity can attract tourists by offering alternate tourist attractions

Objectives:

- Encourage the establishment of handicraft studios specific to this area
- Promotion of traditional trades and professions
- Create exhibitions illustrating diverse specialties

Results:

- Created of additional work places
 - Conservation of traditions specific to the area
 - Preservation of traditional customs
- Wider range of tourist activities

Main Activities

- Establishment of facilities for small handicraft workers (low rent, lower taxes, etc.)

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 8,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Daniela Oprea

8. URGENT RENOVATION OF THE FOLLOWING: TANNERS' TOWER, FURRIERS' TOWER, BUTCHERS' TOWER, AND THE FORTRESS WALL

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- These structures are in an advanced state of degradation and are in need of urgent consolidation and preservation work

Objectives:

- Protection and preservation of Sighisoara's historic and cultural heritage



SIGHISOARA

Results:

- A better degree of protection for the monuments
- Wider range of tourist activities

Main Activities

- Renovation and consolidation work

Economic Data:

- Investments (amount)
 - 17,000 EUROS/year
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Victor Moldovan

9. UPGRADING SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- Most of the buildings are old and the maintenance costs for these structures are high

Objectives:

Improve educational conditions

Results:

- Reduce school drop-out rates
- Increased level of school promotion
- Increase number of students achieving high results in school contests

Main Activities

- Upgrading the buildings
- Upgrading the facilities

- Acquisition of progressive and up-to-date educational materials
- Equip science laboratories

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 100,000 EUROS/year
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Victor Moldovan

10. PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVING TRAFFIC, CREATE PARKING SPACES, AND DIRECT THROUGH-TRAFFIC OUTSIDE THE CITY

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- There are insufficient parking spaces in the city centre and in residential neighbourhoods
- Heavy through-traffic contributes to a series of drawbacks related to pollution
- Lack of necessary elements for the facilitation of traffic at busy intersections

Objectives:

- Ease automotive traffic in the city
- Solve problems caused by lack of parking spaces
- Eliminate problems caused by through-traffic

Results:

- Reduced number of accidents
- Reduced pollution levels in the city
- Improvement of city aesthetics

- Increased level of satisfaction of citizens' needs

Main Activities:

- Creation of parking spaces
- Good management and administration of parking spaces
- Solutions to eliminate through-traffic

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 3,000,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Daniela Oprea

11. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERVICE SECTOR, ESPECIALLY SERVICES RELATED TO TOURISM

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

The service sector is of small influence in Sighisoara's economy. The development of this sector would lead to new employment opportunities and ensure a better satisfaction of the community's needs. In tourism, the need for the development of services is strong considering the increasing number of tourists visiting Sighisoara and the tendency for longer visits to the city, from several hours to several days.

Objectives:

- Programmes for professional development aimed at personnel involved in tourism-related services

- Encourage the establishment of small and medium enterprises with activities in various areas
- Creation of additional jobs

Results:

- Decreased unemployment rate
- Improved quality and variety of services in the tourism industry
- Increased income to local budget

Main Activities

- Organise educational courses offering qualifications in the areas of various services
- Creation within the City Hall of a database of persons seeking employment in collaboration with the local Mures County Employment Agency Office
- Creation of promotional programmes among community members providing information on instruction methods in the field of services (brochures, fliers, meetings, etc.)
- Organise regular meetings for business representatives in the city, in collaboration with the Local Council for Small and Medium Enterprises and business clubs
- Organise a collaboration programme with institutions which provide training in the field of services

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 300,000 EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall – Daniela Oprea



12. IMPROVED DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Location: Sighisoara

Justification:

- The drinking water produced by the water collection and treatment plant at the entrance to Sighisoara is not of a high quality.
- The source of water is river Tarnava Mare, and the water treatment plant is in need of improved equipment and the addition of a biological treatment stage.
- The water distribution network is old and deposits within the pipes have a negative impact on the quality of drinking water.
- Objectives:
- Upgrading the existing facilities of the various treatment stages in the water treatment plant
- Inclusion of the biological stage in the water treatment plant

Results:

- Increased quality of services offered to the inhabitants of the city centre area

- Reduce damage caused by the existing sewage system

Main Activities

- Upgrading of the mechanical stage in the water treatment plant
- Upgrading of the chemical stage in the water treatment plant
- Inclusion of the biological stage in the water treatment plant

Economic Data:

- Investment (amount)
 - 1 million EUROS
- Financing source (local sources, subsidies, others)
 - Local budget
 - Currently seeking financial sources

Current Stage: (feasibility study, application for ISPA, SAPARD financing, preliminary discussions, etc.)

- Preliminary discussions on the improvement of the drinking water quality

Contact Person

- Sighisoara City Hall: Victor Moldovan

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