



**BEIUȘ IS A CITY IN BIHOR COUNTY, ROMANIA**

# BEIUȘ SOCIAL MAP

THOMAS  
**MORE**



**IN COLLABORATION  
WITH:**

Filip Bode  
Ria Bruijn  
Nikita van Breda  
Hanne Driesen  
Vanessa van Eck  
Jozef Goebels  
Suleyha Goos  
Emely Lathouwers  
Lisa Martens  
Patrick van den Nieuwenhof  
Henna-Riikka Nousiainen  
Lien Peeters  
Sara Perttunen  
Enrique Sacristán Olarte  
Tessa Speltincx  
Johny Suru  
Emmi Teppola

**BIO RACER**  
SPEEDWEAR

# Content

1.	SITUATION AND PURPOSE .....	1
2.	POPULATION EVOLUTION.....	3
3.	EMPLOYMENT .....	5
4.	BIORACER FACTORY RACETEX.....	8
5.	THE MAYOR AND LOCAL POLICY .....	11
6.	STUDENT .....	12
7.	YOUTH IN BEIUS.....	14
8.	MEDICAL CARE AND HOSPITAL BEIUS.....	15
9.	PHARMACIST .....	17
10.	FIREFIGHTER .....	18
11.	GOOD SAMARITAN ORGANIZATION .....	19
	<b>History of Good Samaritan from Beius.....</b>	<b>19</b>
12.	SOCIAL HOUSING .....	21
13.	LADY AT THE RAILWAY.....	22
14.	WOMAN AT THE BAKERY .....	23
15.	DOGS.....	24
16.	CONCLUSIONS & PROPOSALS.....	25

# 1. SITUATION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the social map of Beius and its surroundings is to obtain an insight into the human potential of the region in the context of employment. Furthermore, to explore the general situation of the small city and to find out the needs of the local community.

Beside statistical figures and facts, also Photo Voice Interviews have been done and discussed by the Thomas More University College students on a familiarization trip March 2019.

A social map is, on the other hand, a kind of a snapshot but with facts and figures that are as well useful to get a broader insight on a community. Meaning a social map is a working document and requires follow-up and updating

- Beius is situated in the Bihor County, near to the Hungarian border and only 70 km away from Oradea, the capital of the Bihor County.
- Area: 24.46 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population (2011 census): 10,667 inhabitants i.e. a density of 494/km<sup>2</sup>. The ethnic structure of the population is:
  - Romanian 89.8%
  - Hungarian 7.3%
  - Roma 2.6%
  - Other 0.3%





- The city is a key point in reaching the Apuseni Mountains and their rich mines, or mountain resorts.
- The nearby mountains are hosts to some of the most dense and spectacular limestone cave systems in the world. These caves contain remains of the extinct cave bear (*Ursus speleus*) and prehistoric humans, huge colonies of bats, subterranean lakes, striking calcareous formations and giant earthworms that live in the guano-flooded cave floor.
- The tunnels in the city are also famous, as they are believed to link together and act as escape routes used during the Medieval Age. Their construction began during the rule of Hungarian king Bela IV.
- The nearby landscape includes agricultural hills with crops ranging from corn, wheat and potato to fruit orchards like apple, pears, plums and strawberries.
- Industry is represented mainly through production of furniture and fashion destined for European markets.
  - RACETEX, a daughter company of BIORACER, is situated in Beius.
  - In Salonta, 70 km from Beius there is another Belgian company: VPK Packaging.
  - The nearby distillery and beverage factory of Sudrigiu also employs a large part of the city's labor force.
- In between Beius and Salonta, we find Batar, that has a partnership with Bertem (Belgium).

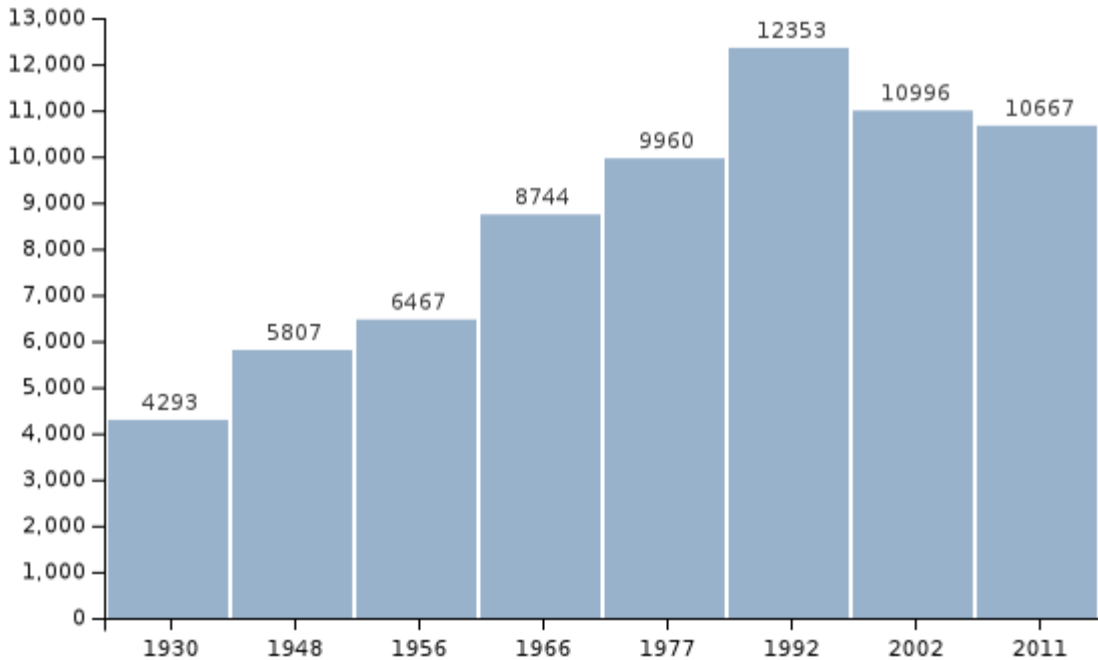
The province of Bihor has a strategic plan 2014-2020 with information about the region.

<http://www.cjbihor.ro/hotarari2017/anexa/h203.pdf>

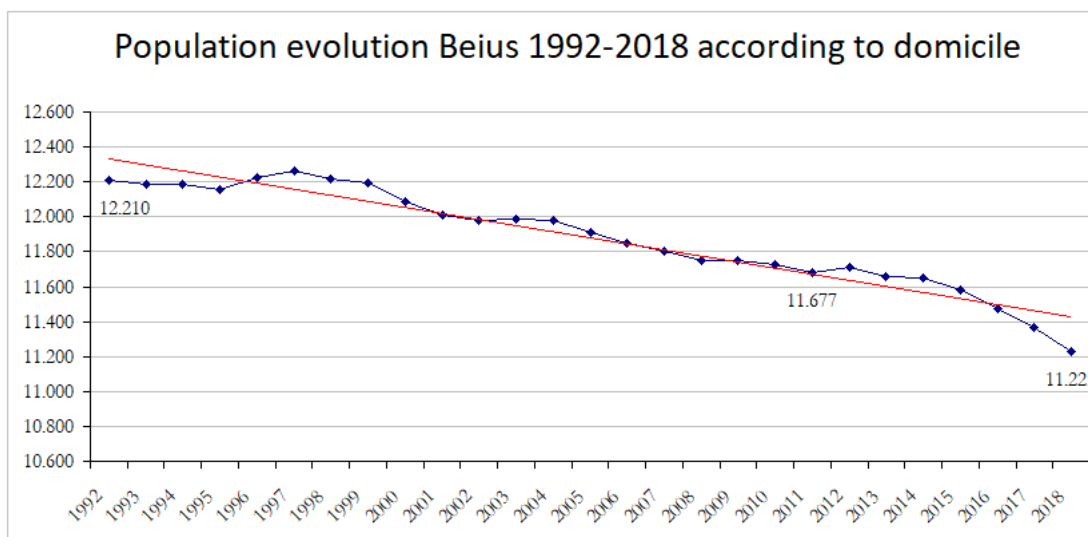


## 2. POPULATION EVOLUTION

Beius follows a general Romanian trend of a declining population. The population evolution according to residence (actually present) on the basis of the population censuses teaches us a strong decrease in the period 1992-2002 and a slight stagnation in the period 2002-2011.

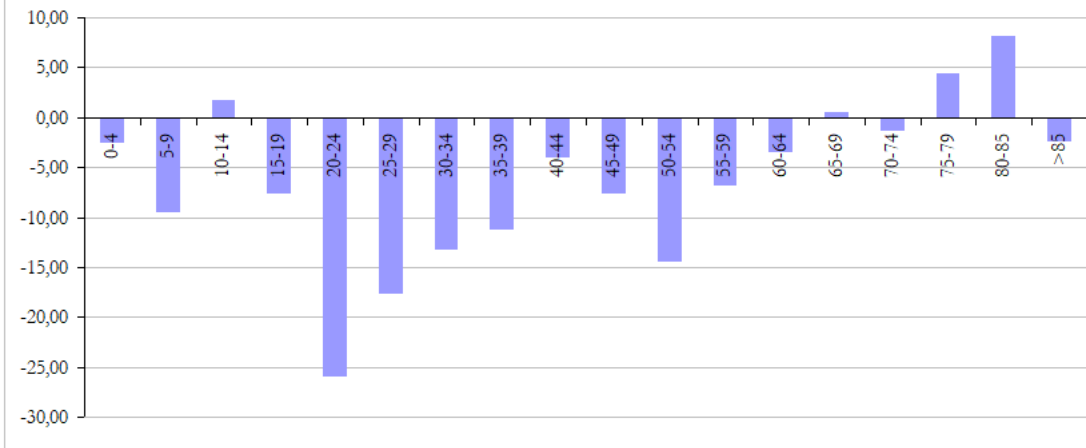


Population numbers, although also a clear decrease, based on domicile (registered but not necessarily present) give a slightly different picture.



In 2011 there were 11,677 registered (domicile), while according to the residence there are 10,667 citizens. A difference of 1,000 citizens according to domicile and residence. Nearly 10% difference. This may indicate a migration (temporary or permanent). If the data are broken down by age group, it can be seen that it is mainly the young working population who, although registered in Beius, do not necessarily live permanently in Beius.

Difference in % domicile / residence Beius - 2011 - age range

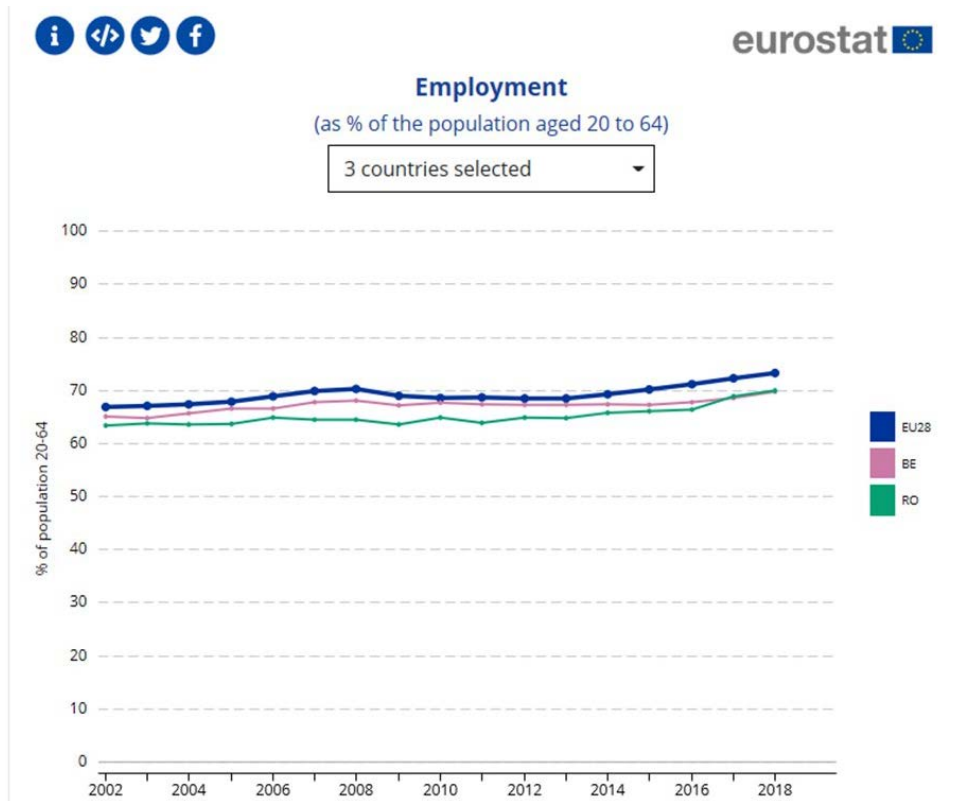


For example, 1/4 of the 20-24 years old are not present in Beius, for the 25-29 years old this is 1/5. This has a number of consequences in terms of social and family structures, but also for the recruitment of staff.

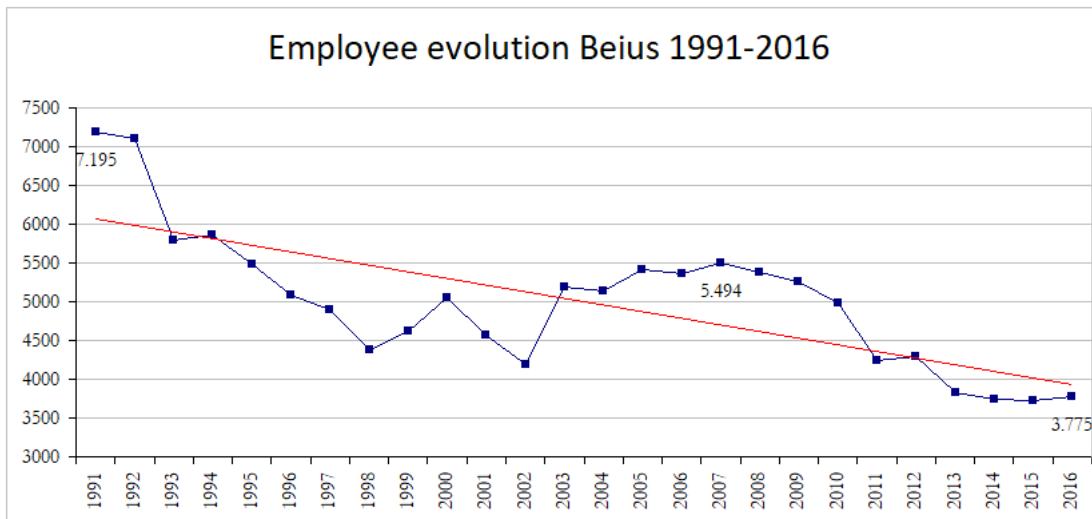
Migration is often a consequence of a declining economic trend. A more limited offer makes people migrate. On the other hand, there is a lack of qualified staff, which means that there is a lack of investment. The risk of a downward vicious circle is realistic.



# 3. EMPLOYMENT



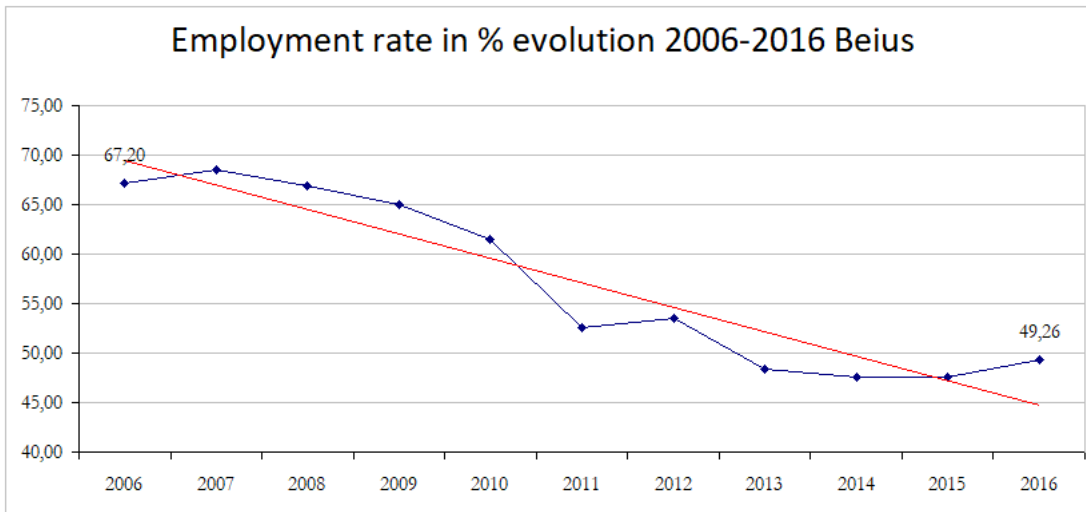
The employment of people between 20-64 in Romania is almost the same as in Belgium and in the EU28.



A sharp decline can be observed in the number of employees between 1991 and 2016.

This also translates into a sharp decline in the employment rate in Beius. From almost 70% in 2006, it has fallen to 50% in 2016. This means that half of the active population does not have an employment contract.





The decline in the 1990s may be due to the decline of industry after the communist period. There was a recovery in the first half of the 2000s, but the economic crisis also seems to have had an impact here due to the fall till 2016.

	Data	Year	Target
<b>Employment rate age group 20–64 (%)</b>	69.9	2018	70
<b>Gross domestic expenditure on R&amp;D (% of GDP)</b>	0.5	2017	2
<b>Greenhouse gas emissions in ESD sectors (% change since ESD base year)</b>	- 1.7 (!)	2017	19
<b>Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%)</b>	24.5	2017	24
<b>Primary energy consumption (million tonnes of oil equivalent)</b>	32.4	2017	43.0
<b>Early leavers from education and training (% of population aged 18–24)</b>	16.4	2018	11.3
<b>Tertiary educational attainment (% of population aged 30–34)</b>	24.6	2018	26.7
<b>People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (thousands)</b>	6 360	2018	8 535

(!) Provisional data.

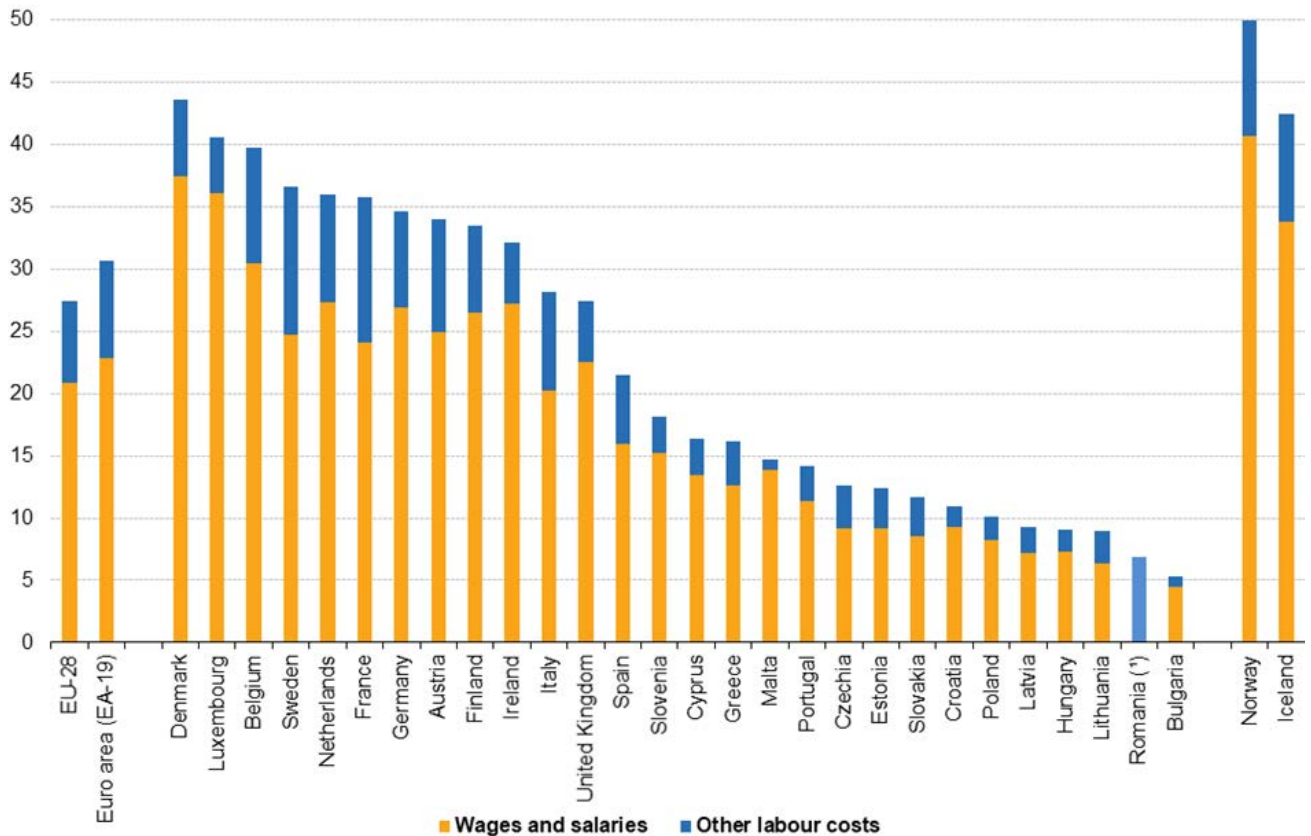
Source: Eurostat (see dedicated web section: Europe 2020 headline indicators)





## Estimated hourly labour costs, 2018

(EUR)



Notes: whole economy (excluding agriculture and public administration); in enterprises with 10 or more employees. Provisional data.

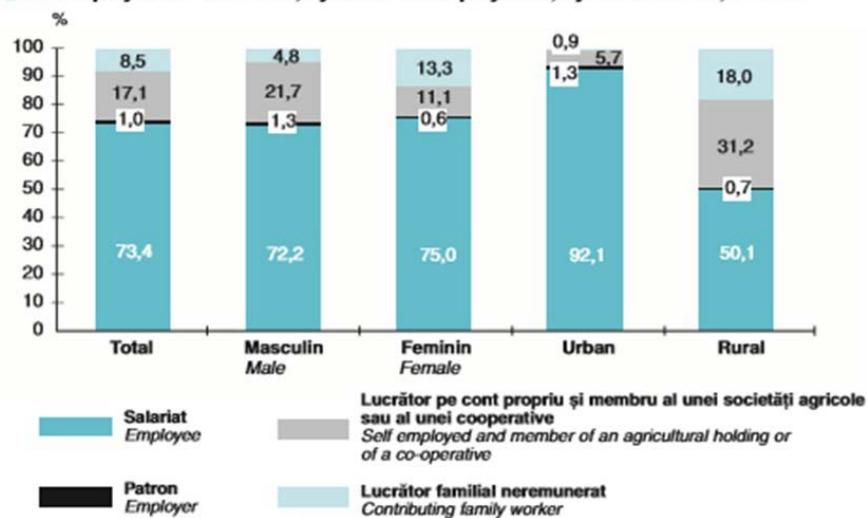
(\*) Only the total hourly labour cost is displayed. The wage and salary/non-wage breakdown is not published for 2018 as estimates are not comparable with previous years due to changes in national legislation.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: lc\_lci\_lev)

eurostat

### 3.G2 Structura populației ocupate<sup>1)</sup>, după statutul profesional, pe sexe și medii, în anul 2016

Employment<sup>1)</sup> structure, by status in employment, by sex and area, in 2016



<sup>1)</sup> Datele pentru anul 2016 au fost calculate în funcție de populația rezidentă având în vedere criteriul reședinței obișnuite, în condiții de comparabilitate cu rezultatele definitive ale Recensământului Populației și al Locuințelor - 2011.

The data for 2016 have been calculated according to usually resident population by the usual residence criteria, under the conditions of comparability with the final results of the Population and Housing Census - 2011.

Sursa: Cercetarea statistică asupra forței de muncă în gospodării (AMIGO) - 2016.

Source: Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) - 2016.

## 4. BIORACER FACTORY RACETEX

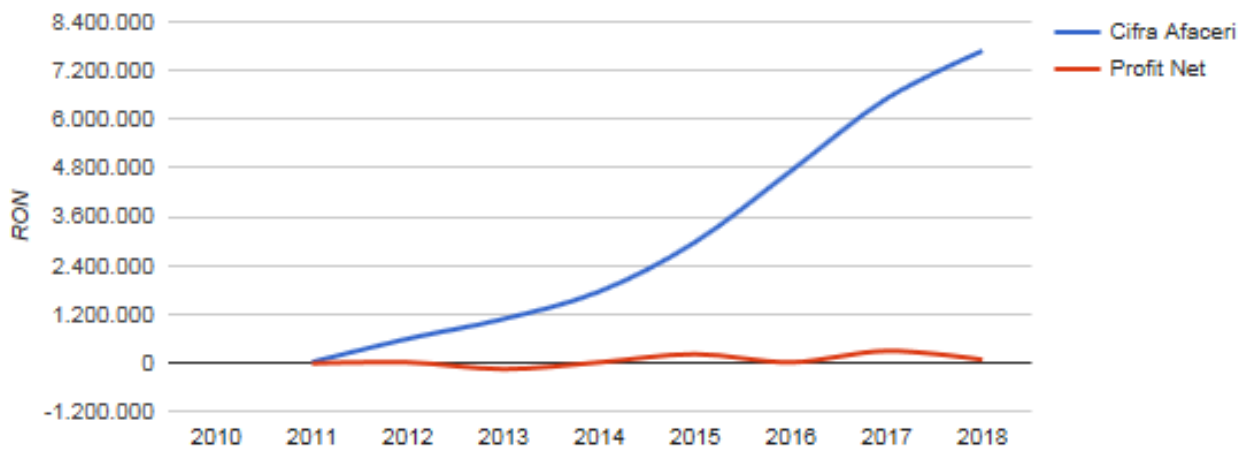
BIORACER is a Belgian company, situated in Tessenderlo, Belgium, producing speed wear.

- Their Mission: we make you faster  
We innovate, design, manufacture, promote and sell speed wear to cyclists, triathletes, runners and ice skaters, striving to maximize their performance. Winning is a state of mind. With every inch of your gear prepared, your only focus is you.
- Their Vision: MAN IS THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS  
The speed and performance of an athlete depends on 3 things: biodynamics, aerodynamics and aquadynamics. It is in our DNA to innovate to improve your athletic performance. We design your gear so you can compete at your best. Your greatest competition is yourself.
- Their Values:
  - ✓ Passion//want to make a difference
  - ✓ Innovation//set the trend and the standard
  - ✓ Service//customer satisfaction is the goal
  - ✓ Trust//secure a promise, pay for a product, delivered on time
  - ✓ Inclusiveness//it's about us.
- Corporate Responsibility:  
Nowadays, corporate responsibility is an integral part of a business strategy. After all, it is evident that companies have a responsibility to take care of people and the planet. Their actions have implications at a higher level than just the company. That is why we must move towards building a sustainable future for people and planet together.  
The Voka Charter Duurzaam Ondernemen is Bioracer's standard when it comes to corporate responsibility. Following the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations, BIORACER set up an action plan and listed our sustainability goals.
- ADR-Vlaanderen have already for several years a collaboration with BIORACER that supports ADR as well as TON.



In Beius, BIORACES has a daughter company RACETEX. We visited the company in Beius and met with Anca Stoicevici, general manager RACETEX.

- 141 employees.
- Majority women.





The Students of Thomas More where split up in 2 groups:

- The social department students interviewed some of the employees at work to better understand their working conditions as well as their general feelings regarding their employment.
- The nurse department students did a preventive checkup of voluntary personnel together with Ioan Suru, the manager of ADAMSlatina-Timis. Wat came out:
  - Stress
  - High blood
  - Overweight
  - Gynecological problems.

→ Conclusion: preventive actions have to be set up as well as a regularly control. Regularly control, 1/year and for some 2/year, are done by the labor medicine organization contracted by RACETEX. We have to stimulate for "Positive Health" actions.

### Photo Voice Story:

We visited the factory of RACETEX in Beius. When we came in here, we immediately saw a distressing picture, all employees were crammed together in rows. We immediately noticed the loud noise. It was also very warm and there was a strange smell.

The employees work 8-10 hours a day. The normal contract is for 8 hours/day. Extra hours are paid extra. They have a 15-30-minute afternoon break and then another 5 minutes smoke break. They work 6 out of 7 days a week. If they want to leave early, they deduct this time from their breaks.

The employees were able to tell us that they like to work in this factory. They wouldn't change much. They have nowhere else to go, because this is one of the few job opportunities there is. They say, "Many things change, but we have to work. We hope for the better."

It was hard to see the big difference between the work circumstances in Belgium and Beius. But they don't know any better and these jobs are normal for them.



Lien



## 5. THE MAYOR AND LOCAL POLICY

Mayor: Adrian Nicolae Domocoş (National Liberal Party)

<http://www.primariabeius.ro>

- Good cross border cooperation with Hungary and with Ohio (US).
- Collaboration with Bihor County: cross border projects with focus on tourism.
- Natural warm sources: warming half of the houses of Beius, the hospital and the mayors house.
- Open for collaboration.
- Telemedicine integrated.
- Need homecare: patients that are sent home after hospitalization going back to difficult or bad circumstances. They will survive longer after successful hospital treatment, but question is in what conditions? Importance hospital and homecare collaboration together with family doctor.
- In the past, they had an orphanage were 750 children stayed. An organization "The good Samaritan" realized a lot for these children (see later).
- Italian nuns take care of neglected children.
- The following day, the social work students had a meeting again with the mayor and social service of the local administration regarding social matters in Beius. They have received information about the social work laws and rules in Romania and some special rules for Roma inhabitants.
- They have talked with the social assistant of the Beius City Hall and with the Roma integration representative. For a city with 11.000 inhabitants, 4 people are working at the social care department.



### Photo Voice Story:

This picture is taken in the city hall of Beius. We had a meeting there with the mayor. I choose this picture because I wanted to tell how I felt about the meeting and about the things the mayor said. The one thing that surprised me the most is how they think about social problems. They don't acknowledge that there are such things as mental illnesses or alcohol or drug problems. I think that only when you acknowledge the problems you can start making things better. You should not hide the problems or pretend that they don't exist.



*Emmi*

## 6. STUDENT

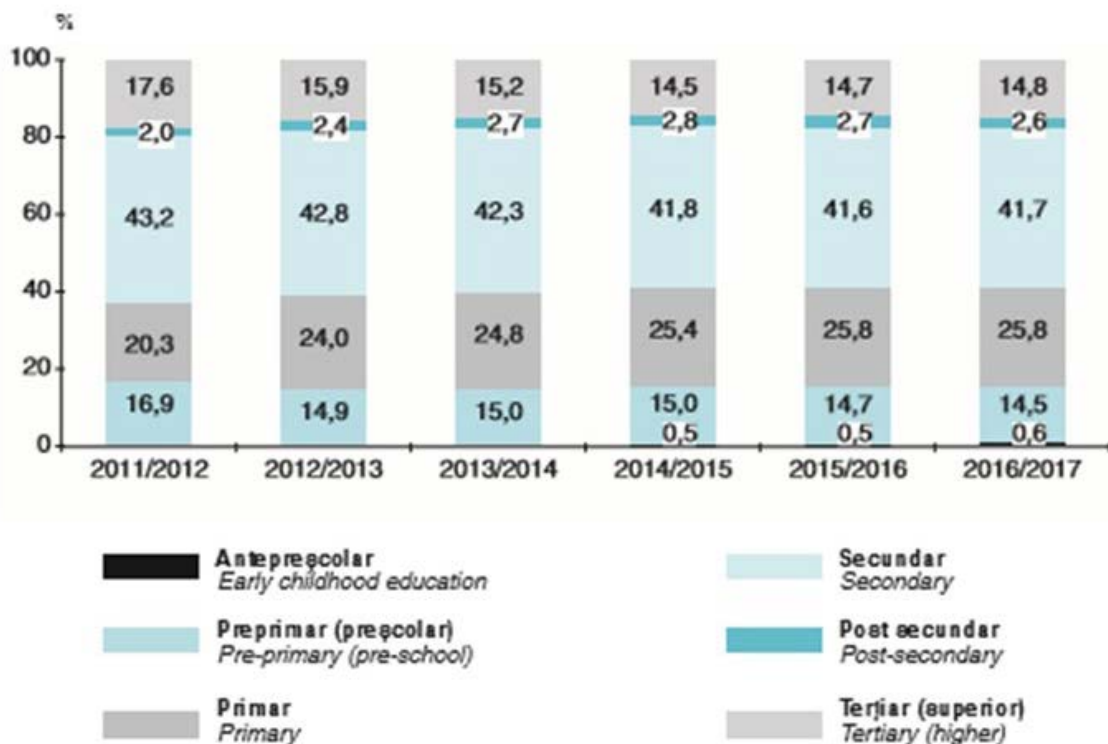
Between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and very early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Beiuș constituted one of the most important learning centers of the Romanian language in Western Transylvania.

Beiuș is still an “education center”: 3 high schools (oldest from Romania) and in total 5.000 students (regional). Formation of teachers and pedagogical high school.

- "Samuil Vulcan" National College (founded 1828)
- "Ioan Ciordaș" Technical College (it worked as an apprenticeship school from 1885)
- "Nicolae Bolcaș" Pedagogical High School (1922)
- Technical University College, branch of the University of Oradea
- General school with cls. I-VIII “Ep. Nicolae Popoviciu”
- 2 kindergartens with extended program and a nursery

This should be for companies an advantage to find well educated youngsters. Also, the proximity of Oradea with universities is a plus. Maybe there is a lack on technical/professional schools.

### 8.G2 Populația școlară, pe niveluri de educație School aged population, by level of education



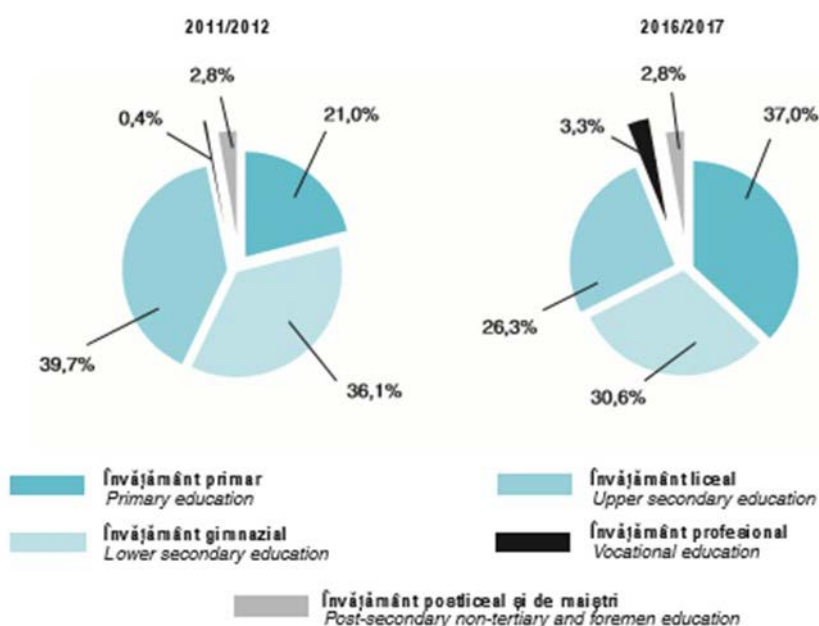
### Photo Voice Story:

We went to eat at a school, the “Nicolae Bolcas School”, in Beiuș. There, we met a 16-year-old girl. We immediately noticed that she spoke English very well. The girl learned this at school, and she is very happy that she speaks a foreign language.

First, she told some things about the school where she was. She is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade herself. School is obligated up to that point, but you can go to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. After high school she wants to study psychology. She wants to strive for a better approach to mental problems, because she believes that too little is being invested in mental problems. At school they do have a school psychologist and she likes that. She also told us there is nothing to do for the youth. There aren't youth houses and only a few youth movements and sport clubs. If they do meet up with friends, they often just go for a drink in a café. She also told us there are some hang-out youngsters and that young people can easily get into alcohol and cigarettes. When we asked if she wanted to change anything in Romania or Beius, she said immediately: the roads. The roads are bad, and many people risk falling on the sidewalk. Finally, she told us not everything happened very honestly at high school. For example, some students bribe their teachers to get their diploma. They buy their diploma. We noticed that the girl seemed very mature and thought carefully before saying anything.

### 8.G3

Ponderea elevilor care studiază prima limbă modernă, în total elevi din învățământul preuniversitar care studiază prima limbă modernă  
 Weight of students learning first foreign language, in total number of students from undergraduate education learning first foreign language

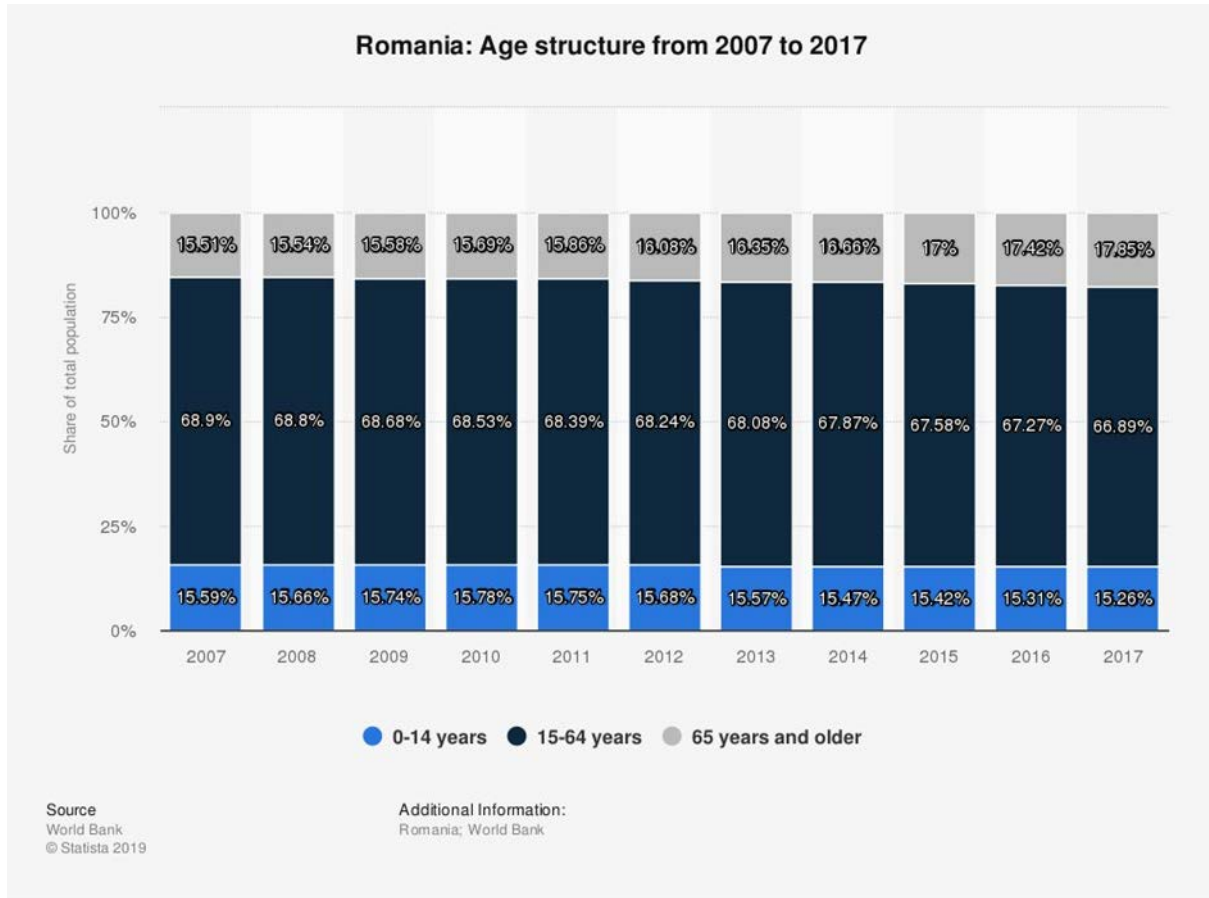


Hanne





## 7. YOUTH IN BEIUS



### Photo Voice Story:

After talking with different people, we came to the conclusion that there is nothing to do for the youth in Beius. After school they have no place where they can go. There are no youth houses, no youth movements and no nightlife. The people we spoke to also feel that something can be changed. I find this very bad. I am very committed to youth work, so I thought it was strange that it doesn't exist. We also spoke to the mayor. He told us that there were enough things to do for children and the youth. We walked around in Beius and almost never saw people on the street. No children playing, no youth hanging around. We have never seen a gym or youth club ourselves. We think the opinions of the mayor and the people are very different. It is a pity that they are not on one line. Otherwise, I think great things could happen in the city.

Emely





## 8. MEDICAL CARE AND HOSPITAL BEIUS

### Medical social services in Beius:

- 8 family doctor cabinets.
- 11 specialized medical cabinets.
- 10 dental medical cabinets.
- 4 school medical dispensaries.
- 8 pharmacies.
- "Minor Sisters" Day Center – private.
- "Casa Iosif" Orphanage – private.
- "Casa Arc" placement center.
- "CIRESARII Day Center" which has the care and social canteen of the city.

### Hospital Beius:

Spitalul Municipal "Ep.Nicolae Popovici, Beius Beius. str.Română nr.7 județul Bihor. [contact@spitalulbeius.ro](mailto:contact@spitalulbeius.ro)

Manager: Dr. Sorin-Luigi Vesa (orthopedic and traumatology) +40-760-10.64.23 [sl\\_vesa@yahoo.com](mailto:sl_vesa@yahoo.com)  
<http://spitalulbeius.ro/>

- Dr. Vesa became manager in 2018. Amazing to see what he changed already in a short time (only 1 year appointed). He is very dedicated, talks with all patients and staff.
- Seems to have as well very dedicated staff.
- The hospital was originally built for the orphanage and became later the city hospital.
- There is a proposal for collaboration (network) of hospitals in the Bihor County.
- Dr. Vesa is very open for all kind of collaborations.
- The lack of needed funds is the reason renovation goes slowly.

Beiuș Municipal Hospital serves a population of over 100,000 inhabitants, with 13 sections in two hospitals. Total 225 beds in with 188 functional.



**Municipal Hospital Beius-Stationarul I**  
Beius, strada Româna nr.7  
Emergency (CPU), Internal Medicine,  
Surgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology,  
Cardiology, Neurology, ORL, ATI  
(Anestezie-Terapie Intensiva)  
Intensive Care, Integrated  
Ambulatory, Laboratory, Radiology.



**Beius Municipal Hospital - 2. Stationary II**  
Beius, strada Garofitei nr.14

Pediatrics, Obstetrics - gynecology,  
Neonatology (Maternity), Infectious  
diseases, Palliative care, TBC dispensary.

### Photo Voice Story:

The Beius hospital looks outdated but in renovation. This does not prevent the staff from doing their best. They don't have that much financial means. They realize that things have to change but don't know how to do this. People are fully investing and innovating in the hospital. The meaning of privacy is very different than we know in Belgium, for instance you can just look inside every patient's room. Patients also see other patients in their rooms. Between the rooms there is only a window in the wall so that when you are working in one room, you can see what is happening in the other room. As a result, the patients also see each other. There is also no knocking on the door or patients were not asked if it was good that we came to take a look. On the other hand, seems they liked our visit.

Regarding hygiene, we noticed that there are decontamination pumps, but there are still a number of things that can be questioned. For example, staff wearing jewelry such as necklaces, long earrings and nail polish. We received protective clothing but had to wear it backwards.

They were very open and proud, and they really showed us everything. We don't feel like they have any secrets. It was a nice and educational experience for us, and it shows us that there are huge differences in cultures and that we must respect that.



*Suleyha*



## 9. PHARMACIST

### Photo Voice Story:

We found this story interesting because the pharmacist likes the fact that this is a small town, because they know everyone like family and therefore can help them best.

What he would change is the mayor because he doesn't do anything about the bad roads. He also said that he thinks it's very dirty in Beius. While we were in Beius, we walked around a lot and never noticed any dirt on the ground.

We also asked them what they thought about health care. They think that the care in Beius is not always good because the hospital is very outdated. They do think that the doctors are good. But they also say that the older people need more help and that this is not possible at the moment. There are also a lot of elderly people in the city who don't have enough care. He did mention that they are important to them financially, because especially the older people need a lot of medication.



*Nikita*



## 10. FIREFIGHTER

### Photo Voice Story:

During the walk through Beius we came across a beautiful building what turned out to be the fire department and talked to a military firefighter (ISU Section Beius). In addition to his work as a firefighter, he also worked as an ambulance service provider.

During the conversation it was clear that the firefighter did not dare to expose himself completely. He did not answer questions about his opinion or about certain circumstances. He told us that, for example, there were insurances according to the law, but in the end, you are still responsible for it yourself.

At the age of 55, you could retire, but most of them still went to work after that because the pension was too low. The firefighter worked far away from home, but he enjoyed working for the fire department.

All in all, we had a good conversation and the conversation confirmed the feeling that the people in Beius do not dare to make negative statements about, for example, the mayor or about what is should change in Beius.



*Vanessa*



# 11. GOOD SAMARITAN ORGANIZATION

We met with Adrian Ciorna, chairman of the Good Samaritan Organization in Beius:

[adrian.ciorna@yahoo.com](mailto:adrian.ciorna@yahoo.com)

+40-722-68.46.79

<https://goodsamaritan.ro/>

Good Samaritan is a Romanian non-profit organization that provides disadvantaged orphans with a chance to learn a job and life skills and to hopefully obtain jobs and better futures; they help children at risk to remain with their families, instead of being abandoned due to poverty and lack of education. They promote performance in education amongst adolescents by encouraging them to progress in life and their future careers through hard work and integrity. But they do not do this alone. They are simply the innkeepers, providing an opportunity for good Samaritans from around the world to help an orphan in need.

## History of Good Samaritan from Beius

During the communist rule in Romania from 1948 until 1989, orphanages overflowed with children who were abandoned by families and individuals too poor to support them. Despite having a population of just 12,000 inhabitants, Beius' orphanage in the 80's (built by a bishop of the Orthodox Church) housed up to 750 children. The orphans had difficult lives in the orphanages, receiving only basic food, inadequate clothes, limited education, and they were often beaten severely if complained.



All the orphans waited for the day when they would turn 18, so they could leave the orphanage and start working in a job given to them by the government. After communism collapsed in Romania in 1989, the orphans were still forced to leave the orphanage when they turned 18, but the government no longer provided them with job assistance. As a result, the orphans often became homeless and wandered the streets without a job, a family or hope. Many were living in parks, under bridges, unfinished buildings, train stations, lives that led to stealing or prostitution.

A young Romanian man saw the plight of the orphans and decided to try and help them when it seemed no one else would. Initially, Adrian Ciorna and his mother opened their home for two girls and provided them with a bed, bathroom, food and most importantly love and acceptance. Adrian and his mother continued to open their home for more orphans and tried to assist them in finding work and a new life.

In 1993 Adrian Ciorna founded The Good Samaritan Association, a non-profit organization in his hometown of Beius.

In those years tens youngsters were annually appealing for the help of the association. They got help of the "Bouworde" from Belgium to construct the shelter houses.

Since 1993 Good Samaritan has assisted more than 200 young adult orphans and their children in the cities of Beius, Oradea, Timisoara and Cluj. Turning 18 they were helped to learn a profession in one of four vocational programs (carpentry, construction, cooking and agriculture) and create an employment history, while jobs in those years were so limited. The street life for these and many others is behind them.

They build a real residential area as well with houses for families that cannot afford a house. This was done together with "Habitat for Humanity Romania". It is considered a good practice model in Romania and in Europe.

The same was done for single people and build a street with studio-houses. (See 12. Social housing).

## Photo Voice Story:

In Beius we met a man that started up “The Good Samaritan”, Adrian Ciorna. The Good Samaritan is a Romanian non-profit organization. Adrian is living in Beius and is helping people in need, for example orphan children, people with no homes or work and poor local families who live in Beius or the villages near Beius. He wants to improve families and people’s futures to be brighter. With him we walked around the city and went to see some people he has helped. He also told stories along the years about the people he has helped, and he told us how everything has started. In the picture you can see houses. Those houses were one example of The Good Samaritans help. They built several houses in one area in Beius for homeless or poor people. That was one big change in those peoples’ lives and helped them to prove their future to be better. I was really touched about The Good Samaritans work. Adrian and his organization have helped lots of Romanian people in Beius without asking anything back. He said he didn’t do it for the fame or for the money. So, when we were walking in the area where he helped to build houses, I was really touched. It made me feel sad and happy at the same time. Sad because there are lots of people without proper homes, and the saddest thing is sometimes there are also children living. But the happy thing was that now the people have homes for several years and their live have been better after they got a place where to live.



*Henna*



## 12. SOCIAL HOUSING

The social housing in Beius is a result of the work of “The Good Samaritan”, in collaboration with “Habitat for Humanity Romania”.



<http://www.habitat.ro/>

### Photo Voice Story:

An important project carried out by The Good Samaritan Association was the construction of social houses in Beius, homes that were built in a very short time, with the help of volunteers and whose objective is to offer decent housing at an affordable price for the population with economic problems and at risk of social exclusion.

We visited these houses and we met two people who lived there. They let us into their homes to see their humble homes. Very small homes, for the life of a single person. A simple house, small kitchen, a tiny bathroom and a room with a small television (perhaps the only electronic device in the house). All the houses on the street that appear in the photo share similar characteristics.

The lady who welcomed us into her house told us about her current situation, the loneliness she felt, how she thanked the association for providing her a home, as well as the cold that happens during the winter in these houses. Also, being a little away from the city center, I could feel living a little apart from society, perhaps this accentuated the feeling of loneliness, which, for an adult, that is reaching old age, is a horrible feeling. When talking with her and asking her about certain aspects of her life, she was very sincere and open with us.

It is difficult to try to explain what you think when listening to a story like that woman about her life. It is part of the Intensive Program that we do, but, to understand the importance of family ties and a structured family and how this helps to have a good quality of life, as well as to understand what economic differences mean and how they affect the lives of who have little. Of course, a housing project like this one, I can only say that it is admirable and so useful for these people that, without such housing the reality of many people would be horribly worse.



*Enrique*



## 13. LADY AT THE RAILWAY

### Photo Voice Story:

I took this picture, because it makes me sad to see that this elderly lady climb over the railway with so much difficulty. Of course, there was a pedestrian crossing at the road (also not correct equipped and signaled) but seems most of the people take a shortcut to cross the railway.

In Beius we walked around a lot. We have visited several places and we walked from place to place. At one time we walked next to the railway. I hadn't noticed what the railway really looked like, until we saw an older lady who literally climbed over the railway. This lady had probably gone shopping, because she had a shopping trolley with her. She had a lot of trouble to get over the railway which I found difficult to see because I know it can be different. I also found it very sad for this lady, because she did this at an older age while her body is deteriorating. We immediately came to the rescue and helped the lady. She seemed to like this, but unfortunately, we could not listen to her because she only spoke Romanian.

A bit further on we arrived at a railway crossing, but also there the railway was not in the ground and you really have to step over it. Still not an ideal situation for elderly people, but this is clumsy for everyone because young children, cyclists and for an example people with a shopping trolley with them, also have to really step over it. I thought it was very strange to see this especially on a railway crossing, because this does not occur in the Netherlands / Belgium and it is something that can be dangerous. The railway was also close to houses and didn't had a fence, we also saw a lot of street dogs. I was worried about this, because there is no fence and there can be a lot of dangerous situations with maybe even terrible consequences. I also noticed that we have spoken to several local people, but no one has said anything about the railways. This makes me realize that this is normal for these people, that they don't know any better. This way I can accept it and let it go, because I see that these people are happy.



*Lisa*

## 14. WOMAN AT THE BAKERY

### Photo Voice Story:

When we saw a bakery along the way, we thought it would be nice to go inside and have a look at what delicacy was there. When we were inside, we spoke to one of the customers. Her name was Alexandra. Alexandra likes to live in Beius. She comes from a neighboring town but now lives in Beius. We started the conversation in general with the question what she likes about this bakery. Alexandra likes to come here because everything is so nice and clean. She just came from work and on her way home she passes by to get some sweets of this bakery. Alexandra works in the mayor's office as a lawyer. She is happy with this job.

What Alexandra especially misses in Beius is some more activities and entertainment. For example, she would like a shopping mall. There are also a few opportunities to have a drink. She would like to see Beius livelier.

Alexandra is three months pregnant and must drive one hour by car to have a checkup with the doctor. Her doctor works is the hospital of Oradea. She doesn't mind that she must drive for an hour. We also asked her about the doctors of Beius. She thinks that the doctors in Beius are also good doctors. She tells us that there are 2 doctors in Beius. She thinks that there is no need for more doctors because there are not many people in the city.

Alexandra has a good standard of living and is satisfied with Beius. Apart from the lack of opportunities to relax, she likes to live in Beius and has a positive attitude towards life.



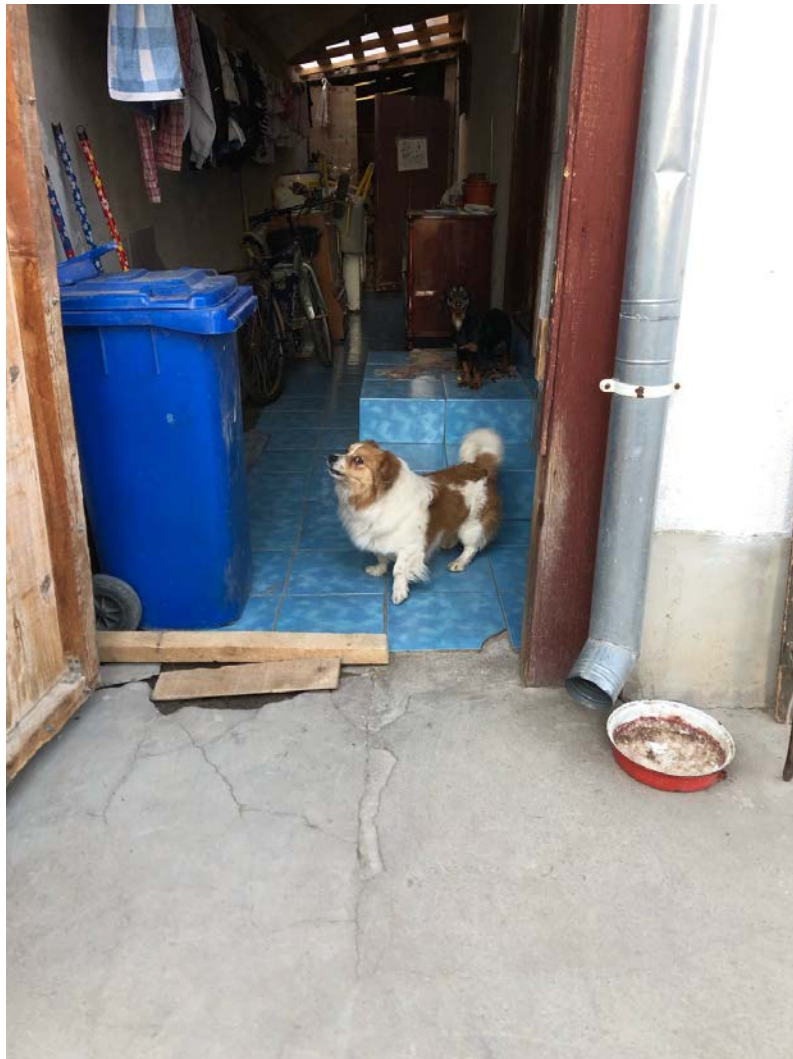
*Tessa*



## 15. DOGS

### Photo Voice Story:

I took this picture because I saw the dogs inside. The picture is from Beius in the community built by The Good Samaritan. I felt that it was good that the people there had pets with them but at the same time I wondered how they take care of them. At many times I saw dogs outside I didn't see water cups with them and many times they were alone without the people being there with them. In the community we only talked to one person who was really in favor of The Good Samaritan's work, but it seemed odd to us because she seemed to look upon them like they were better people than her.



*Sara*

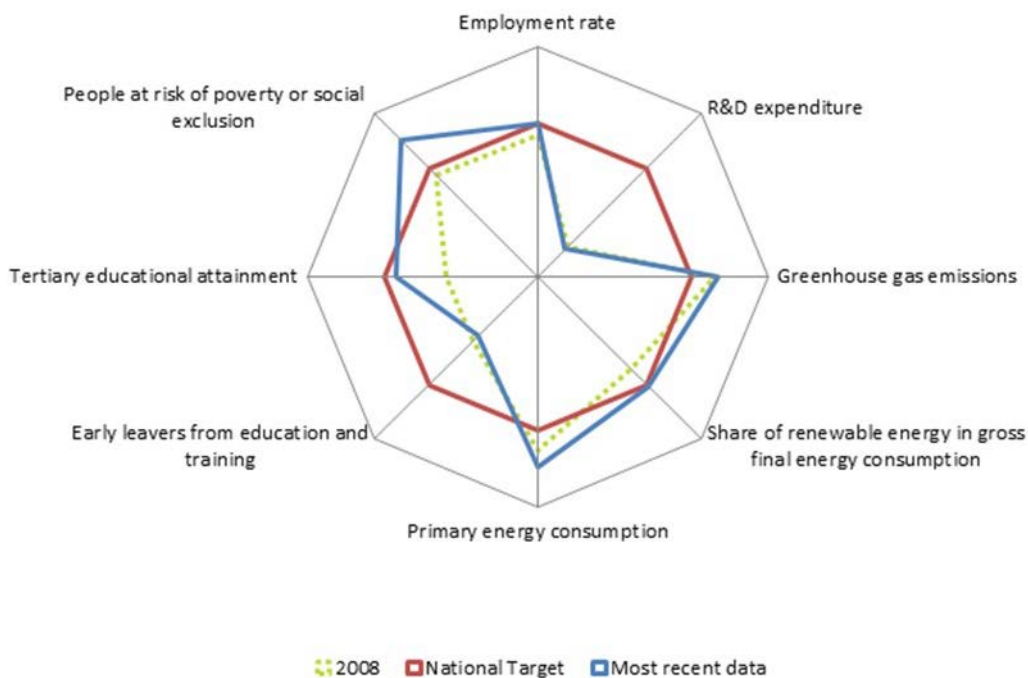


# 16. CONCLUSIONS & PROPOSALS

## Introduction:

Romania has a special position within the European Union. For 10 years member of the EU, but regarding statistics mostly at the bottom position concerning health and healthcare, and social issues. On the other hand, amongst the biggest economic growers. Unfortunately, it is an economic growth based on consumption and not on production, or macroeconomic strategies. The problem is, the social framework and regulation does not follow, since there is no repartition and solidarity system build up as in Belgium. Everything is still too much too centralized. The decisions, the legal framework and the norms are taken at Bucharest level, without too much connection with the reality on the ground. Civil society, professional associations are not well represented and are not listened to, the decisions being strictly political.

Change since 2008 in relation to national targets



Note: Most recent year for which data are available; see table below.

Source: Eurostat (see dedicated web section: Europe 2020 headline indicators)

eurostat

Romania significantly reduced the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2.8 million between 2008 and 2018 and had already met its national target in 2013. In 2017, the country exceeded its commitment to reaching a 24 % share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption and remained well below its national target on primary energy consumption. By 2017, it had reduced its GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions in ESD (Effort Sharing Decision) sectors by 1.7 % compared with the ESD base year levels, remaining well within its 2020 target to limit the increase to 19 %. Romania raised its tertiary educational attainment rate by 8.6 percentage points between 2008 and 2018 but remained 2.1 percentage points below its respective target. In contrast, its share of early leavers from education and training increased to 16.4 % in the same time period, widening the distance to the national target to 5.1 percentage points. Due to a gradual rise in the employment rate between 2014 and 2018, Romania was just 0.1 percentage points from its

employment goal. The country's R&D intensity fell by 0.05 percentage points between 2008 and 2017 and remained well below its target.

ADR-Vlaanderen vzw, as umbrella organization of all groups active since 1989 in Romanian partner villages and institutions, knows the Romanian reality. They build up lot of expertise and an important network during the last 30 years. In 2012 they decided to found "The Open Network for community development" (TON) since changings has to be done in Romania and with Romanians, i.e. give the ownership to the Romanian partners. This is as well an umbrella organization with different departments, of which the health department, the adult education department and the civil society department are amongst the most important. TON and ADR-Vlaanderen try to work bottom up with the inhabitants to change their lives and work on a better future. Local and regional stakeholders are important, and the approach is mutual driven in solidarity. Lot of attention is given to vulnerable groups of society.

BIORACER started economical activities in Romania in 2012 with the intention to do these activities under social corporate governance. To do so, BIORACER decided to collaborate with ADR/TON to help to realize this statement together with the employees of BIORACER/RACETEX Romania.

### **Conclusions and proposals:**

- The group of students of Thomas More on this 'Familiarization trip', came for the first time to Romania and had little prior knowledge regarding situations and culture of Romania. Something to be considered for future Familiarization trips. This means they saw things through their Belgian glasses and didn't not always translocated themselves to the Romanian reality. It's an important knowledge for reading their Photo Voice stories and findings.
- Beius follows the general Romanian trend of a declining population. Important is also to look to the difference in domicile and residence. Meaning a number of people have a house in Beius, but mostly live in another city or abroad. This is mostly young population, meaning the once that could fill in employment needs.
- This is showed in a declining employment rate which make it more and more difficult for companies to fill in the correct employment needs. This is also the case for RACETEX, that has to recruit permanently in a broader area to find needed employees.
- RACETEX employment is increasing rapidly and they started to build a new factory in 2019.
  - Students social department did interviews with the workers in the factory, producing the sport cloths. As already told in the beginning, the student's findings are seen with Belgian glasses and a lack of knowledge about production factories. They mentioned:
    - **the placement of the workers** (stitching workers): although there is lot of contacts and interaction between them;
    - **the noise:** a big atelier with of course noise of machines (a production unit is different from an office);
    - **the warmth:** it was also outside around 25°C and the gates where open for aeration while a new production unit is under construction;
    - **the smell:** this is as well a subjective issue since people are working with different materials all giving a certain smell. On the other hand, employees were happy with their job. There is also the fact of low employment opportunities in small cities and villages. This as well for the population as for a company. This gives also difficulties to find well trained employees.
  - Students nursing department did preventive checkups with voluntary employees. What came out was:

- **Stress:** due to the fact that both, women and man in a family has to go to work (what was not the case during the communist period) to have enough income to live. On the other hand, they have to take care of their family and mostly also for their parents and sometime grandparents (old habit in Romania that the family takes care for each other). Furthermore, there is the fear and concern about their future and the one of their children. Stress is a complex psychosocial phenomenon and difficult to treat. Prevention is best.
  - **High blood pressure:** due to stress as well but also as a result of lifestyle and food. Romanians still use a lot of salt and unsaturated fats of animal origin for cooking.
  - **Overweight:** relation with the high blood pressure and lack of movement. If we are not careful, obesity, stress and hypertension lead to diabetes and other complications. There is an absolute need to intervene with clear prevention programs.
  - **Gynecological problems:** need of an adequate healthcare. It is a loophole that comes from the communist period. There are plans and strategies, but in small cities it seems very hard to bring them into practice.
  - **Conclusion:** preventive actions must be set up as well as regularly controls. Stimulation for “Positive Health” actions are needed. Also, good and trustable information; a better healthcare; set up homecare as well medical as social; daycare centers for elderly; etc.
- Regarding the function of a mayor and the local policy in Romania, we practically everywhere see the lack of attention for social issues and underestimation of social problems. Since 2020 will be an election year for local authorities, people can make their choice for a future they really want.
  - Beius was in the past and still is a center of education, with different schools, serving as well the neighborhood and in close connection with the university of Oradea, only 70 km away. For that reason, good and adequate education for youngsters should be guaranteed. Pity that rumors about corruption and buying of diplomas still exists and are reality.
  - From the interviews of the students and youngsters, we understand that there could be more initiatives for youngsters in Beius. Youth organizations, a youth center, sport facilities, etc. could be a good investment for the future. Question is of nightlife and what we have in Belgium should be the standard. Here also you have to take in account a different culture, economic situation and living conditions. Furthermore, we stayed only 1 day in Beius and it’s difficult to get the full picture on such a short time. Maybe a task for the next group of students visiting Beius in 2020.
  - As stated in the introduction, Romania is still far behind concerning healthcare. Only less than 5% of the GDP is used for healthcare in Romania. Although there are 8 family doctors, seems that most of the patients of Beius are on the list of only 3 of them. We saw an old hospital but in total renovation process with dedicated governance and staff, very friendly for the patients. Again here, norms and policy used in Belgium, can’t be compared with the situation in Romania. People try to do their best with financial and other means that are available. We also see that patient privacy is different and in Romania patients like the contact of others and are partially helped by their family in smaller hospitals. On the other hand, they like visits, surely from people coming from abroad. This is the Romanian nature of hospitality. After the privatization of the healthcare in Romania in 1997, the private sector originated and lot of specialist (for sure gynecologists) started a private practice. The same with hospitals. Problem was and is that these services are only affordable for richer people (small segment of the population) and they mostly need an extra private insurance as well. After a while rumors started that these private practices are much better than the public ones (probably due to fancy buildings, furniture and equipment) and so people like to go over there, even if they have to drive a distance and spend extra money, where on the other hand it’s not always clear if this is a guaranty for better care.
  - The pharmacist could f.e. also work on a more “Social Pharmacy”, meaning at service of the population and not being a simple shop. One has to think as well on renting revalidation materials as we do in our ADR/TON network as well for short time revalidation as for Long Term Care.



- As in most of the places in Romania, adequate elderly care in Beius is still to be developed. If good services for elderly people would be developed, there will be as well less stress for families regarding the care for their relatives and their future. As well good social services in general as daycare centers for elderly; elderly houses; VIZIDOM; homecare social en medical; renting services of revalidation materials; design and equipment of houses and urbanism; etc. are indispensable. There is as well, beside professional workers, a need for trained volunteers.
- In Romania there are 2 sections of firefighters. There is the ISU (Inspectoratul pentru Situații de Urgență) which is the professional military organization of firefighters and SVSU (Serviciilor Voluntare pentru Situații de Urgență) which is the volunteer organization of firefighters, mostly situated and organized in villages. Since the post in Beius is ISU dependent and as mentioned in the photo voice article, there is military personnel, meaning they can be further from home. Also in Belgium, professional firefighters are employed in different big places as f.e. Antwerp, Leuven, Gent, ... That's part of the job.
- The activities and the projects of The Good Samaritan are remarkable. As mentioned, in the 80's in Beius was an orphanage of 750 children. The rules are that at 18 those children had to leave the orphanage and find a solution to work and live. The Good Samaritan started to take care of them and searched for solutions. Bringing them to work and give them a roof (social house projects) was an important activity and solution for those youngsters. In fact, this should be the task of local, regional and national administrations and not to leave it for NGO's.
- What seems to lack in Beius are social-cultural activities for as well youngsters as adult and elderly people. This is a little bit the same in small cities and villages in rural areas in Romania. Reason as well that people (youngsters for sure) want to move to bigger cities where you have a broader scale of social life and cultural activities. ADR/TON tries to set up as well women-, men-, youth and elderly organizations in order to bring people together and advocate for a better social-cultural environment and more public participation in local policymaking.  
In small cities, like Beius, young families also want to find kindergartens with extended programs, schools that offer alternatives, they want a social life. This is difficult.











**BIO RACER**  
SPEEDWEAR

